Especially Adapted
for Beginners

JAMES H. JENNINGS'

PRACTICAL

BANJO SCHOOL

PUBLISHED BY

J. H. Jennings, Providence, R. I.

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JAMES H. JENNINGS
PRACTICAL BANJO SCHOOL.

The above work consists of practical little exercises, pleasing original compositions, and easy arrangements of standard melodies. It does not torture the student with tedious, "dry" exercises but aims for the bright side of Banjo playing by an excellent graded system, which is pleasing and agreeable to the ear, and very progressive in its arrangement. The student should *count aloud* in the beginning and all exercises etc. should be taken a little slower at first to facilitate sight reading, a thorough understanding of the notes and their location on the Banjo. This work is the result of many years of observation, study and experience as a Teacher and Performer.

Hoping the work will win many friends

I remain

Very Truly

J. H. JENNINGS.

TUNING THE BANJO.

Tune the Banjo to Piano or Organ as follows:

Bass or 4th string to C

3rd or middle stg to middle G

2nd stg to B

1st stg to D

5th or short stg to G (octave higher from middle G)

How to tune Banjo to VIOLIN or MANDOLIN.

Tune Banjo 3rd stg to open G on Violin or Mandolin

" " 2nd " " B " " " "

" " 1st " " D " " " "

" " 4th " " C " " " "

" " 5th " " G(D on stg) " " "

How to tune Banjo to GUITAR.

Tune Banjo 3rd stg to open G or 3rd stg on Guitar

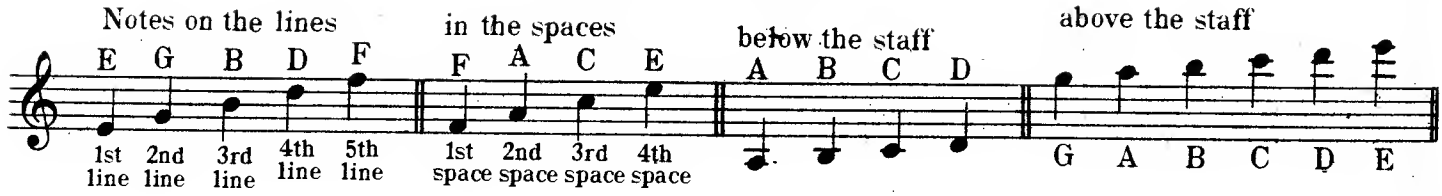
" " 2nd " " open B or 2nd " " "

" " 1st " " D note on B " " "

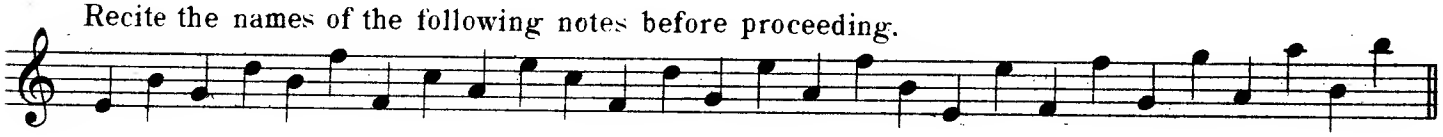
" " 5th " " G " " E " " "

" " 4th " " C " " A " " "

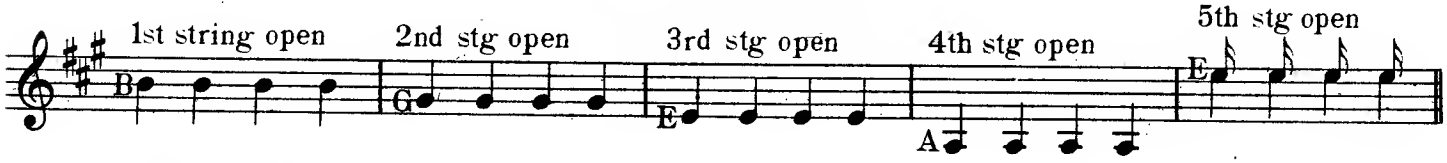
THE NOTES.



Recite the names of the following notes before proceeding.



OPEN STRINGS.



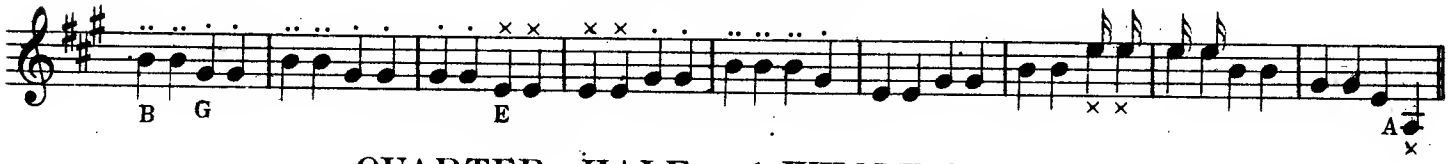
RIGHT HAND FINGERING

× for the thumb
one dot (·) „ 1st finger
two dots (··) „ 2nd „
three dots (···) „ 3rd „

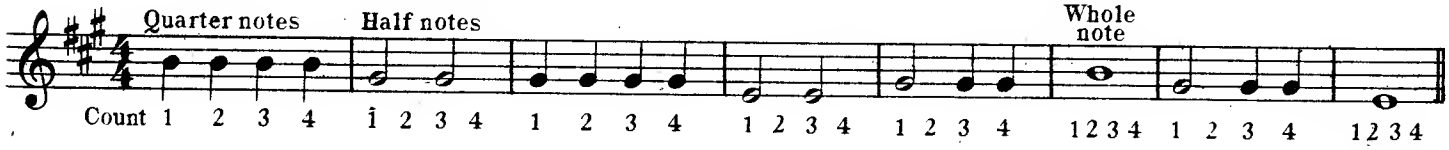
LEFT HAND FINGERING

figure 1 for 1st finger
„ 2 2nd „
„ 3 3rd „
„ 4 4th „
0 open string

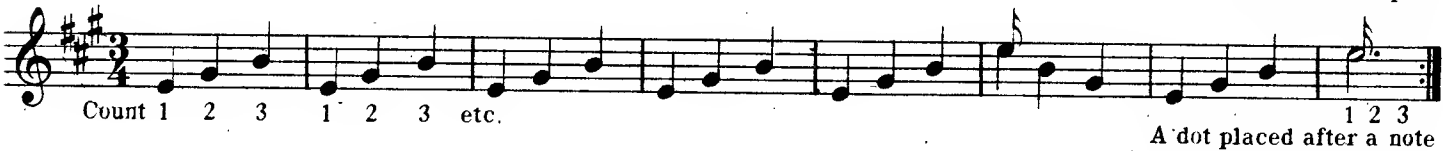
OPEN STRINGS.



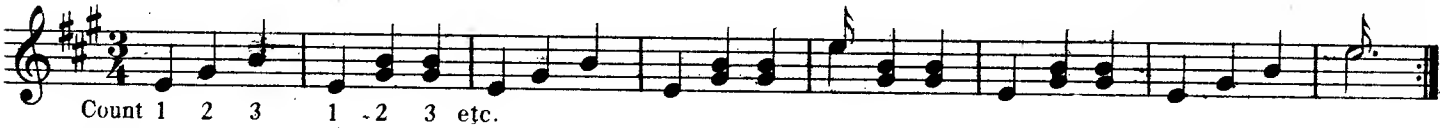
QUARTER, HALF and WHOLE NOTES.

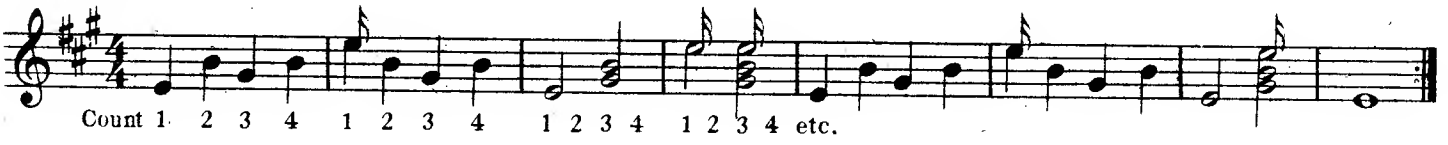


Dots placed before two bars mean repeat.

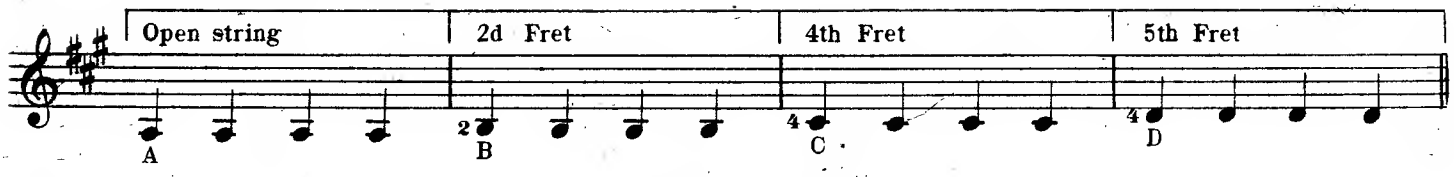


A dot placed after a note increases its value one half.

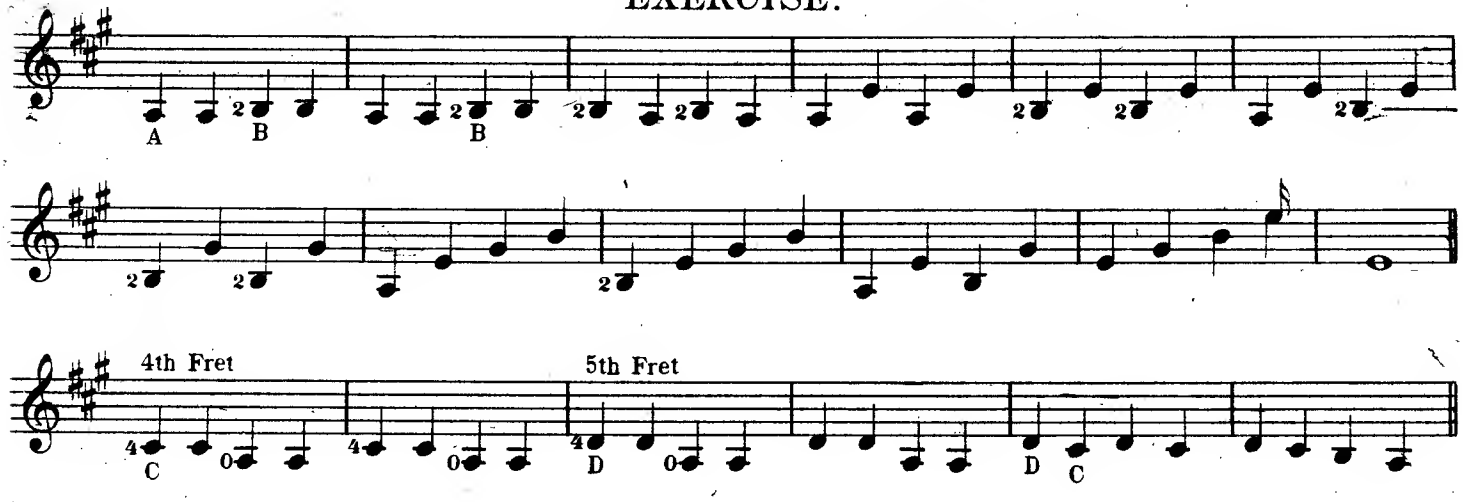


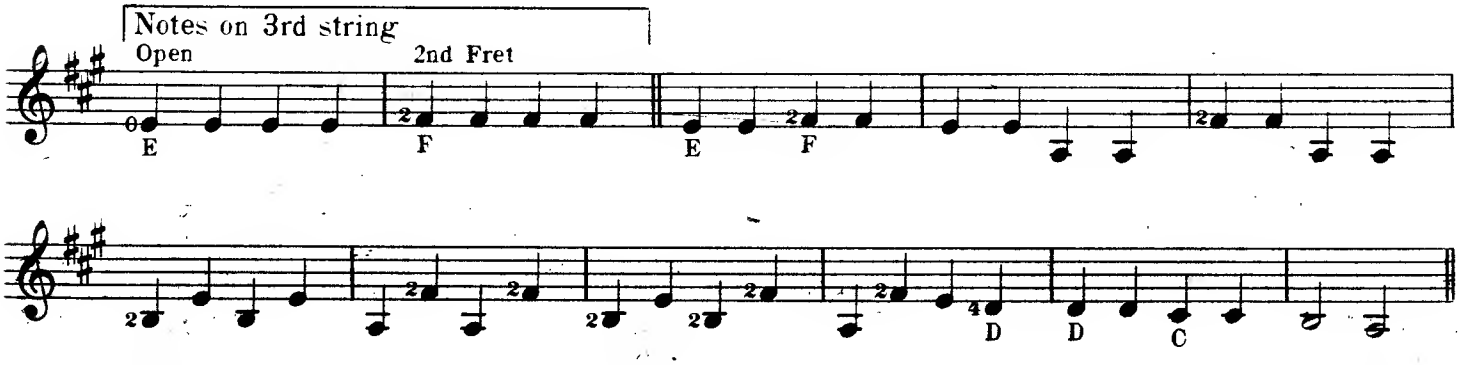


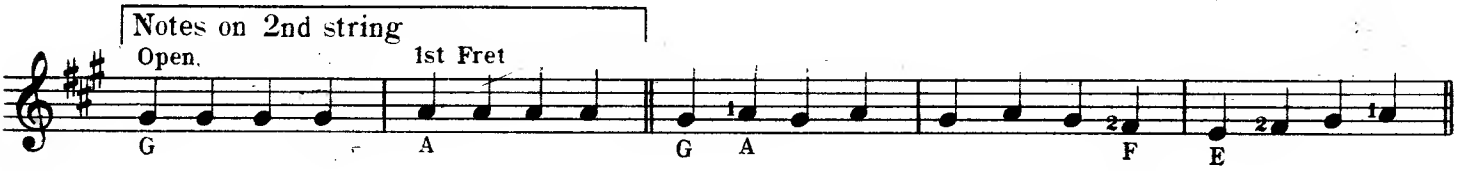
Notes on 4th or Bass string



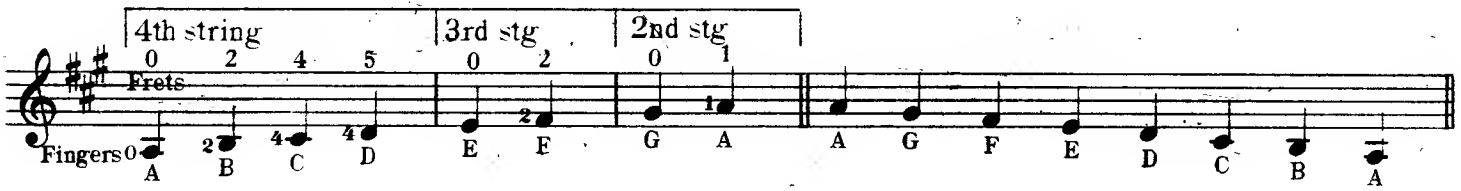
EXERCISE.



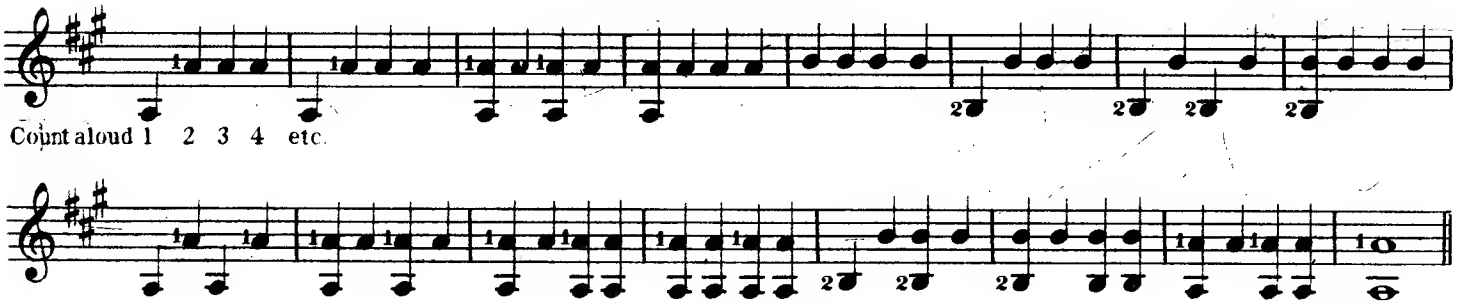




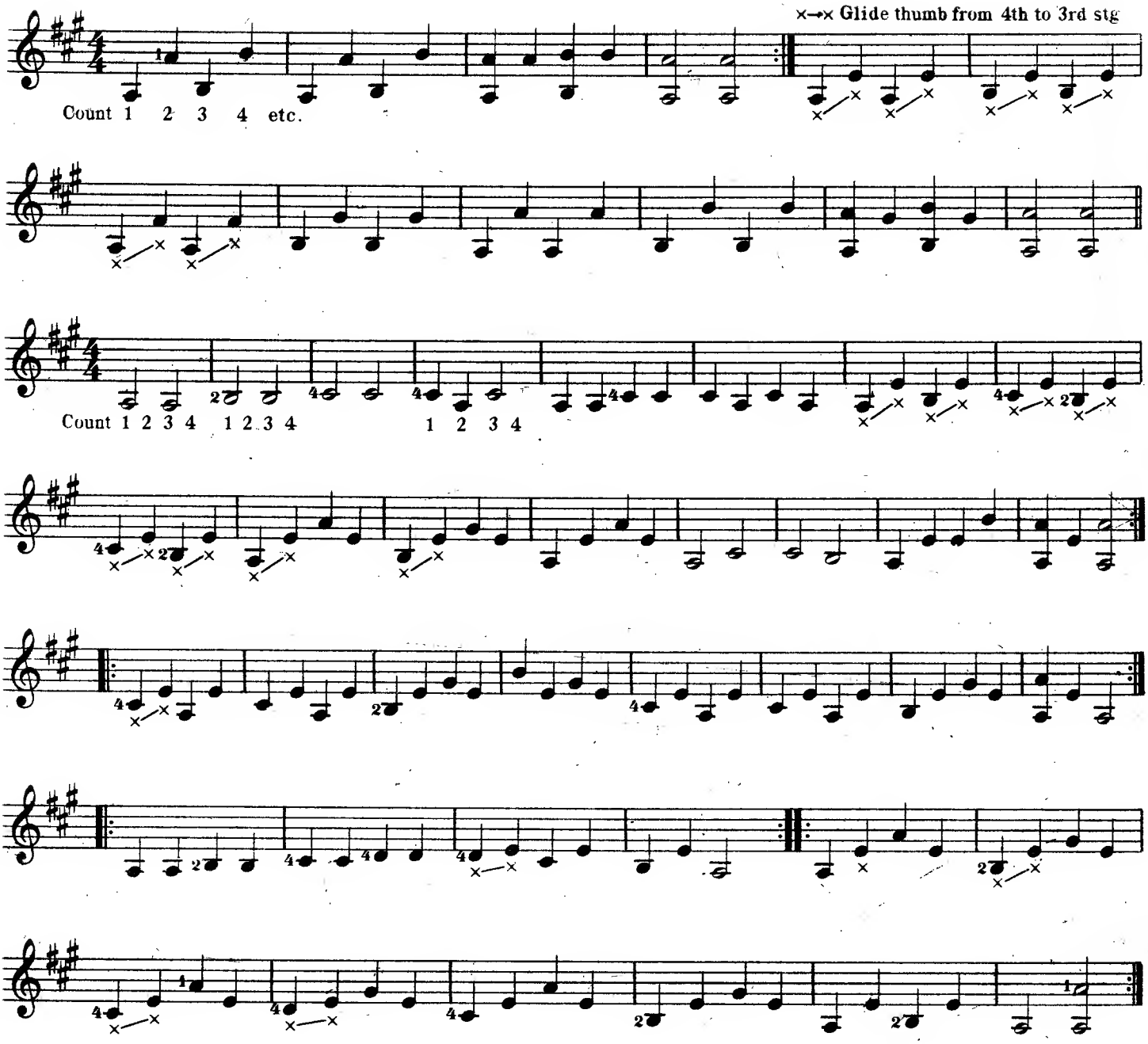
A major Scale.



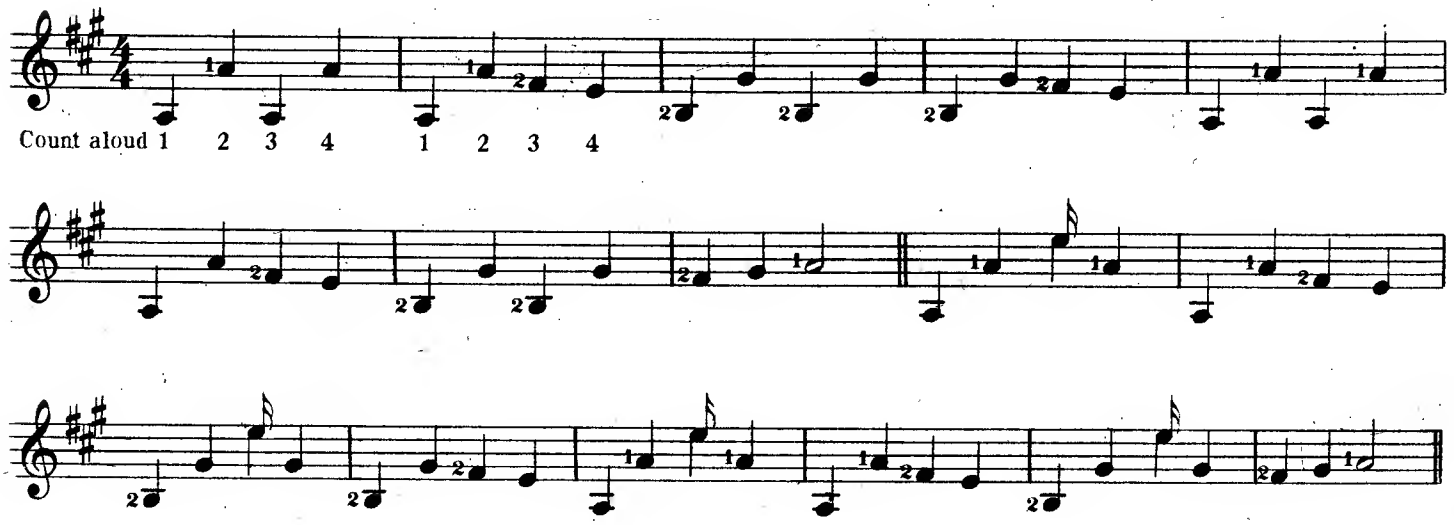
EXERCISE.



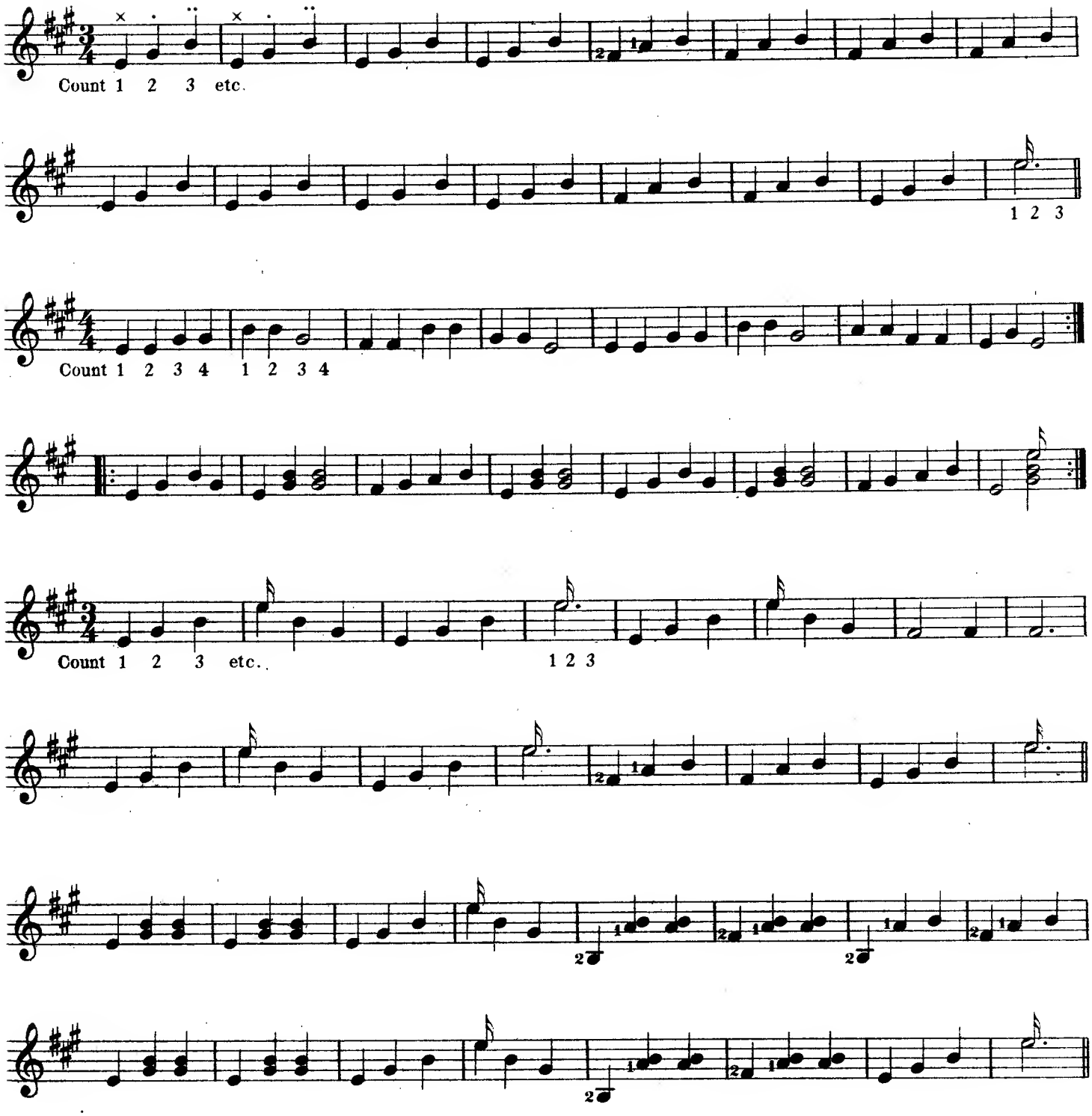
EXERCISES.



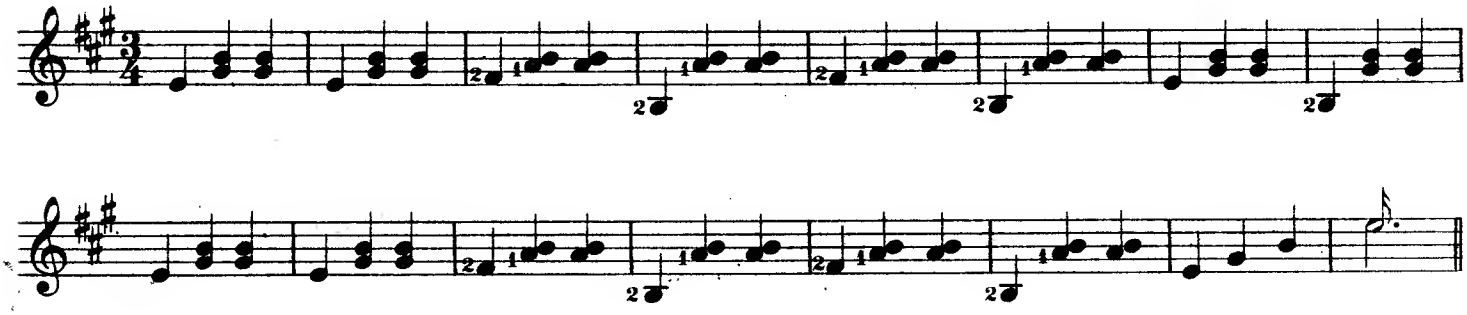
HOT CORN JIG.

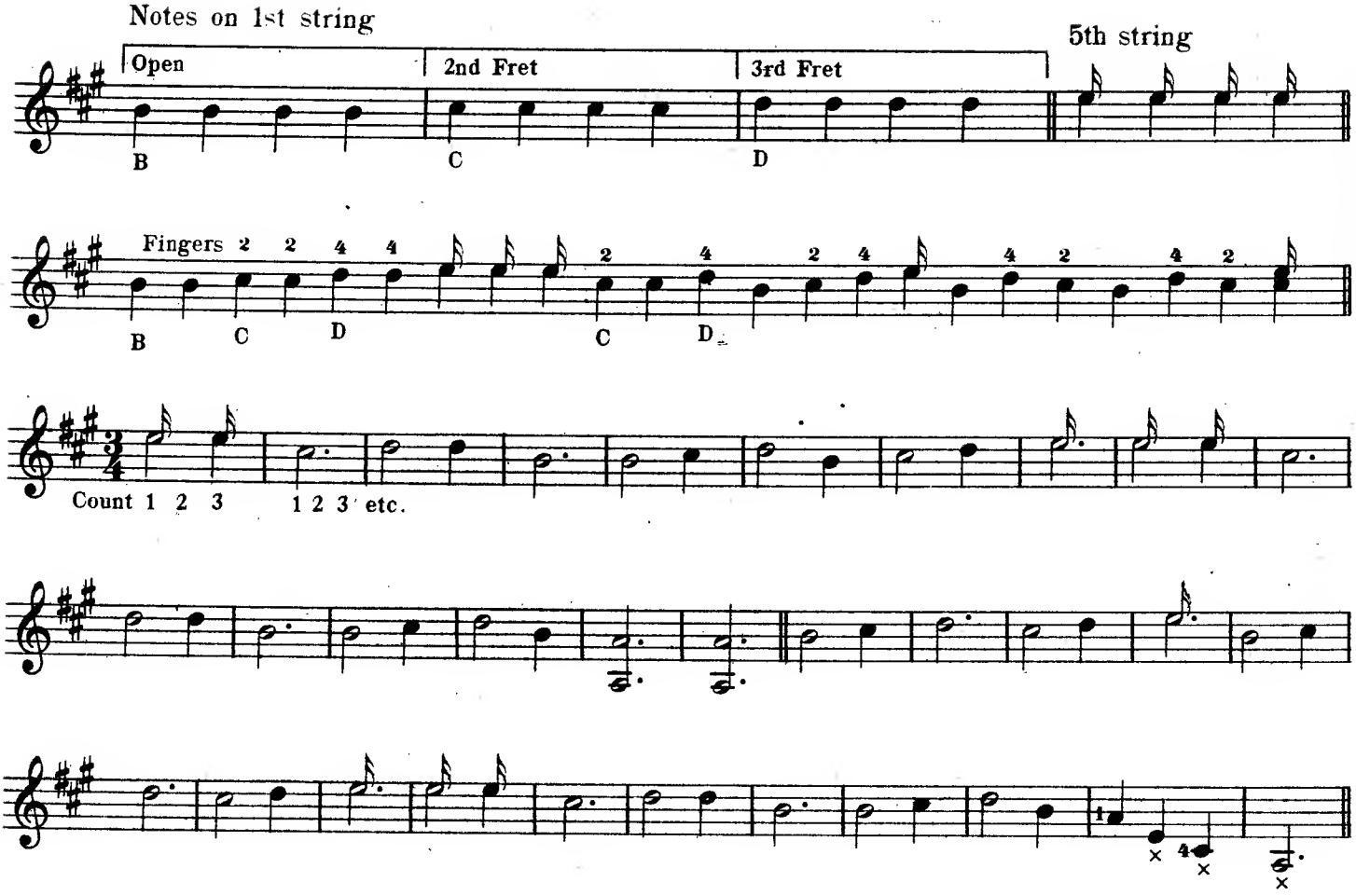


EXERCISES.

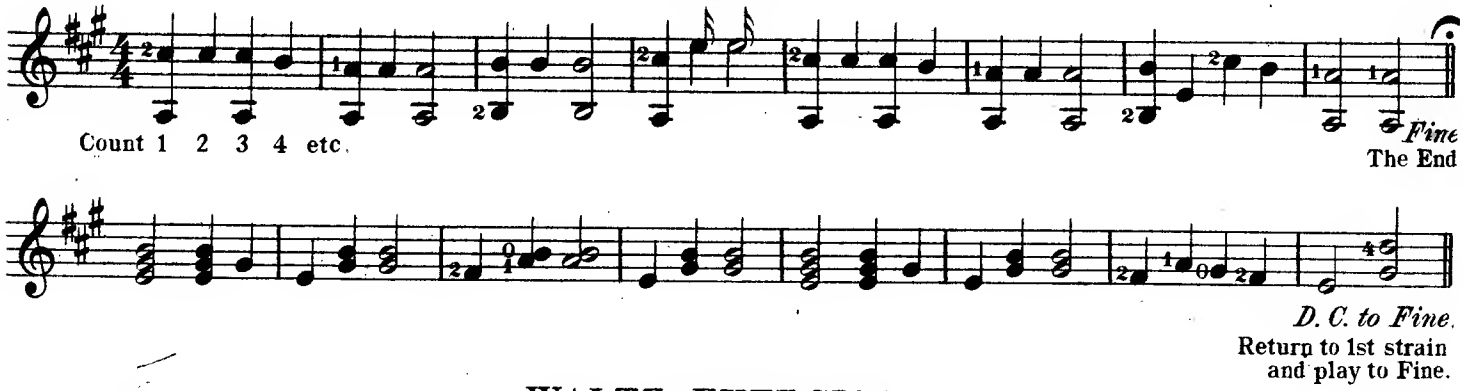


SIMPLE ACCOMPANIMENT.

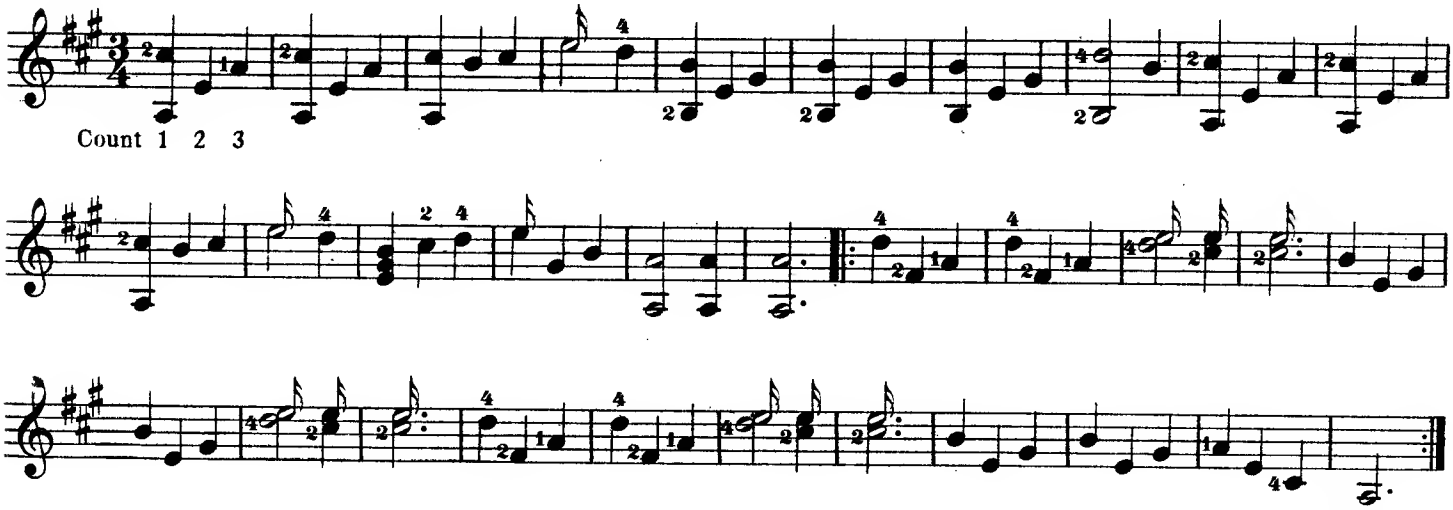




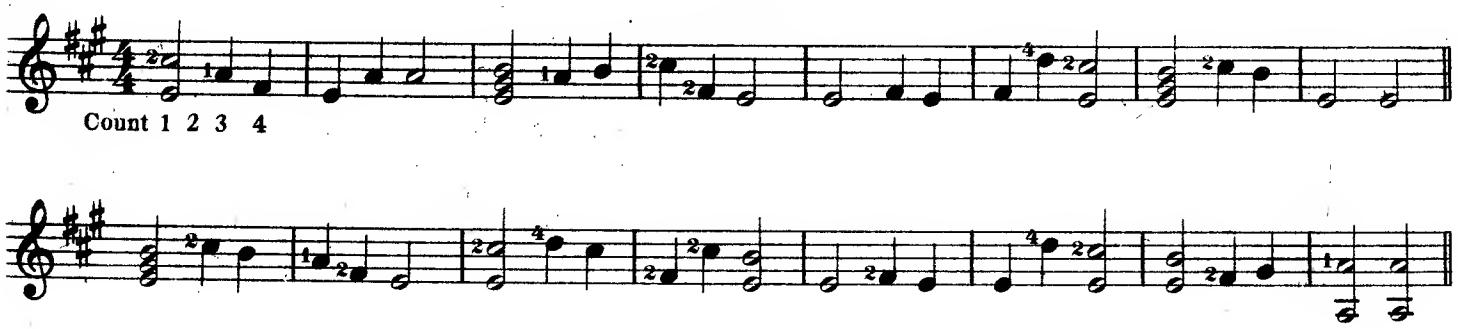
MELODY.



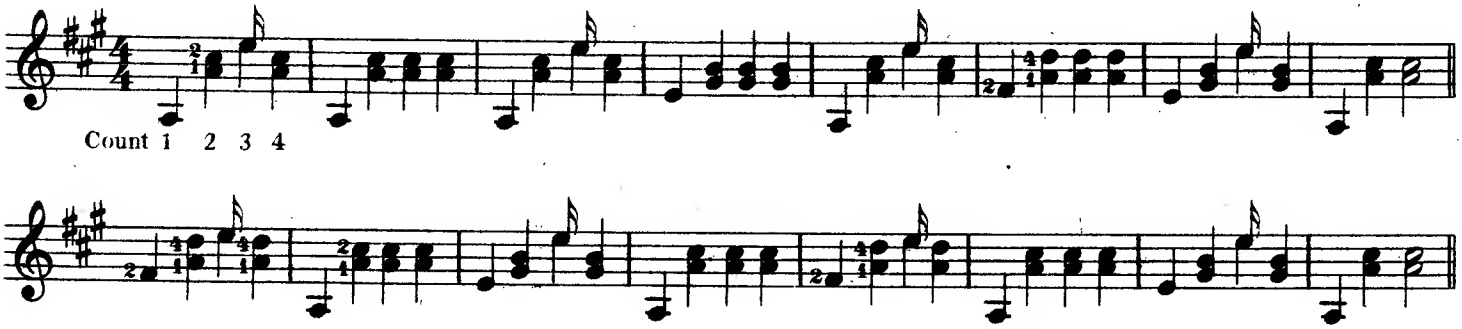
WALTZ EXERCISE.



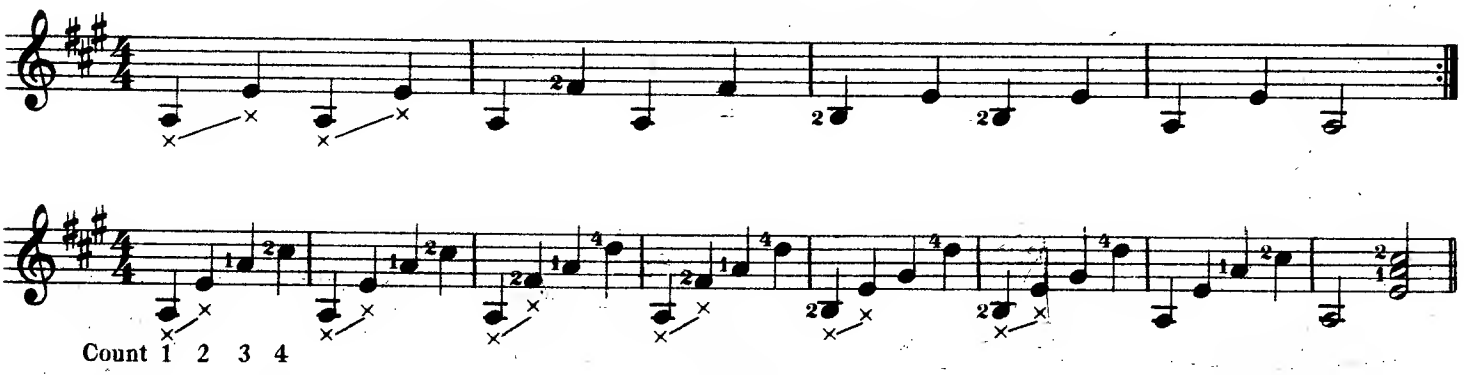
MELODY.



BANJO FAVORITE.

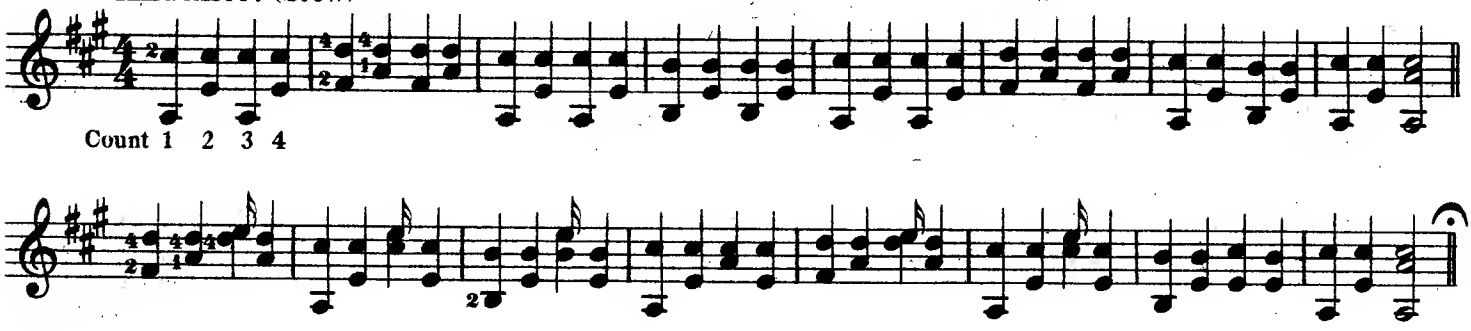


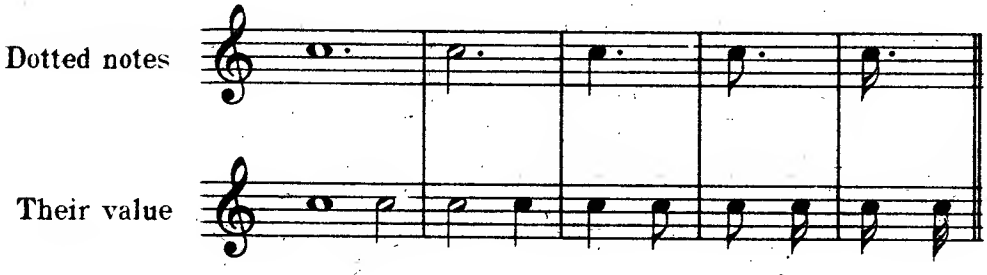
GLIDE EXERCISES FOR THUMB.



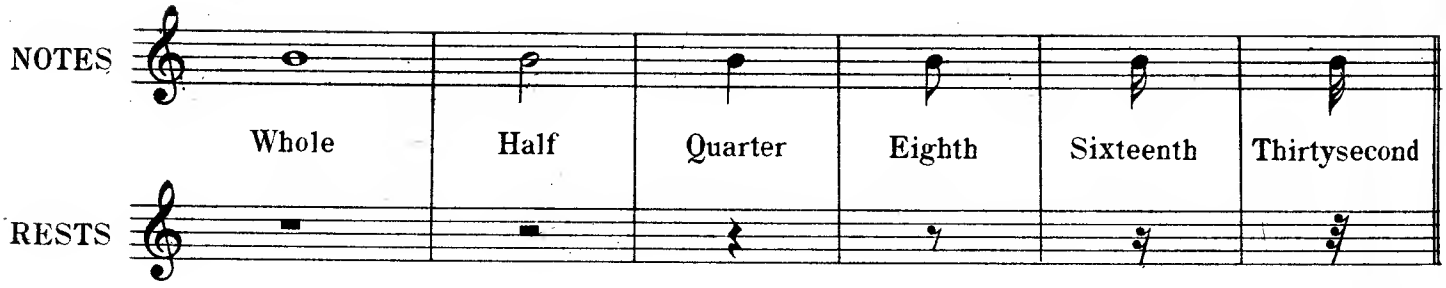
STUDY.

Andante. (Slow)



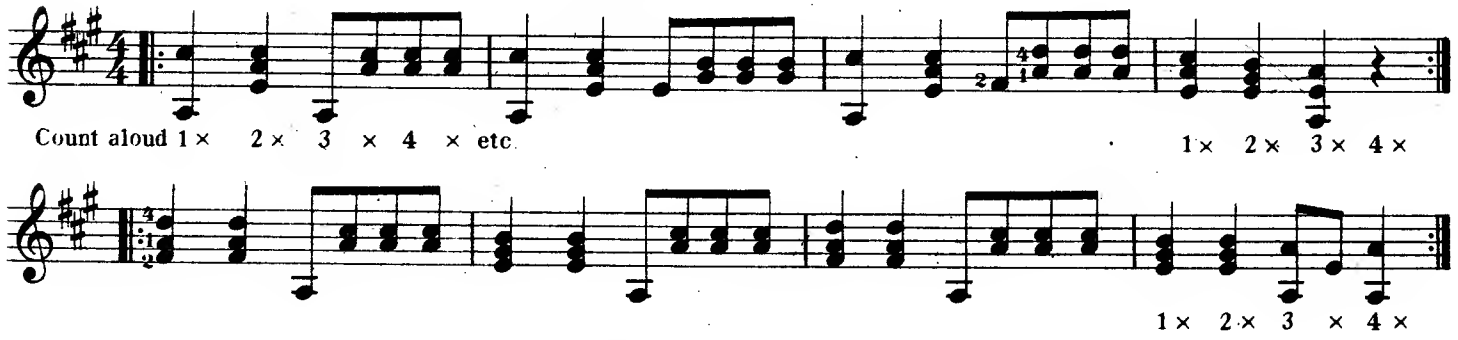


A dot placed after a note or rest increases its duration one half its value.

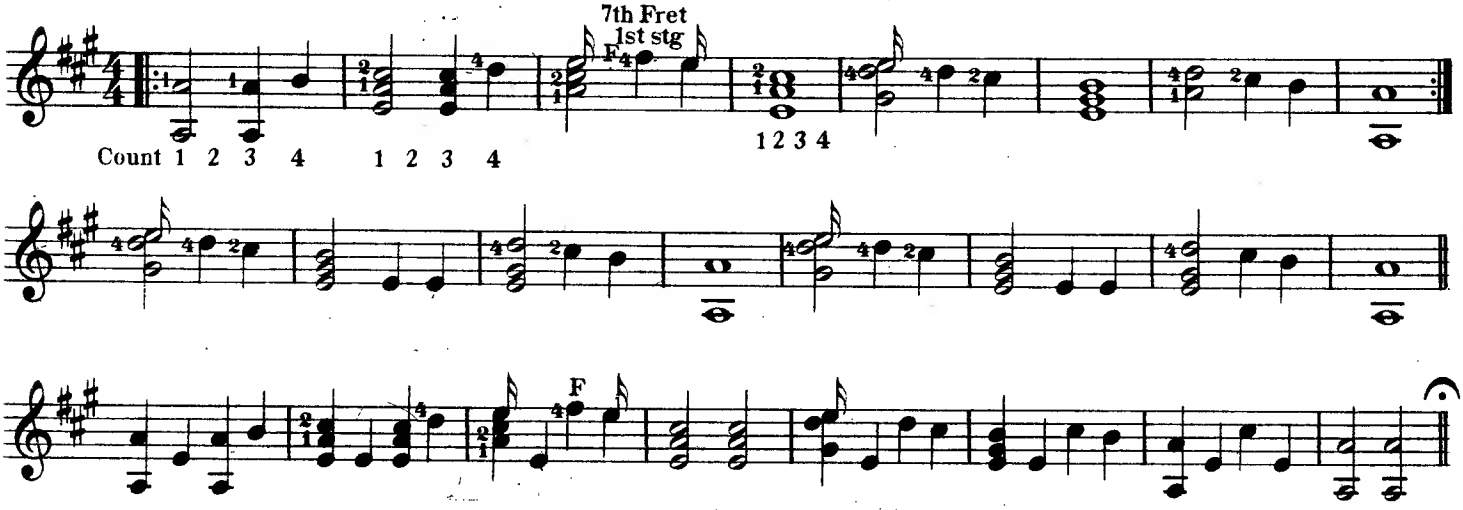


EXERCISE

Introducing Eighth Notes.

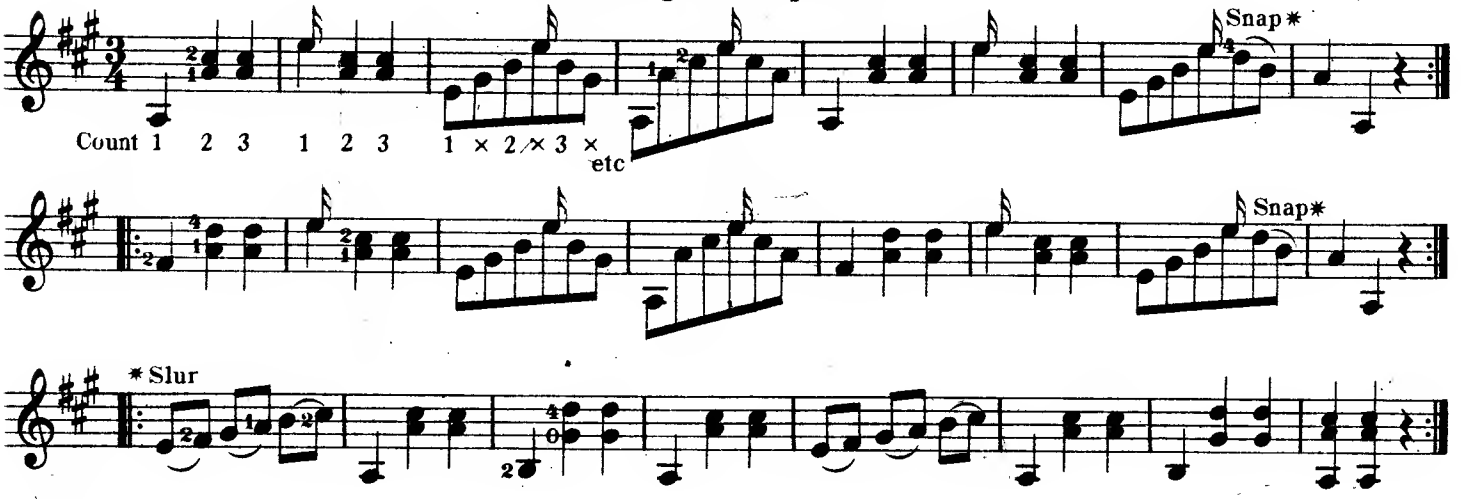


LONG LONG AGO.



BANJO WALTZ

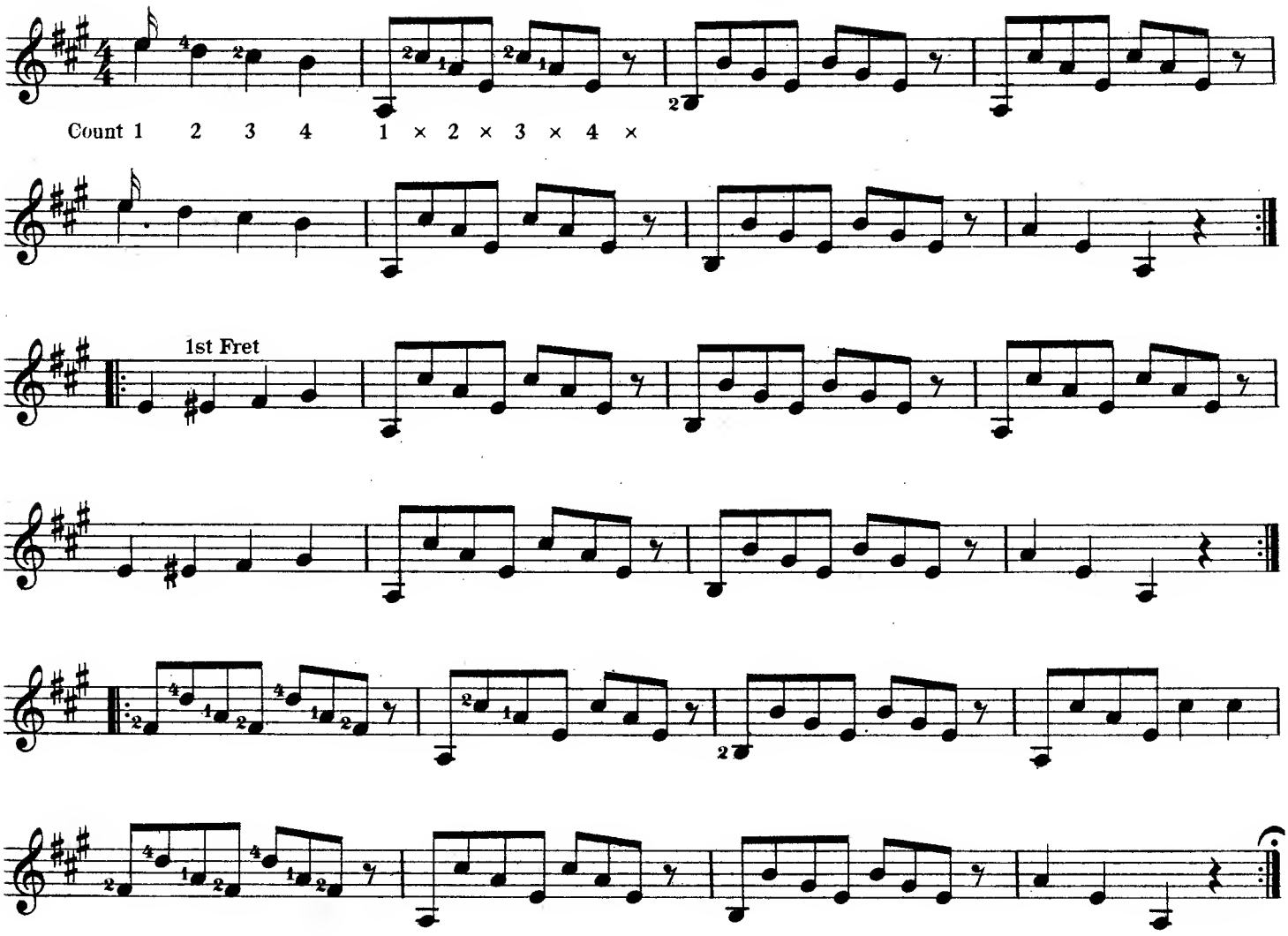
Introducing the Snap and Slur.



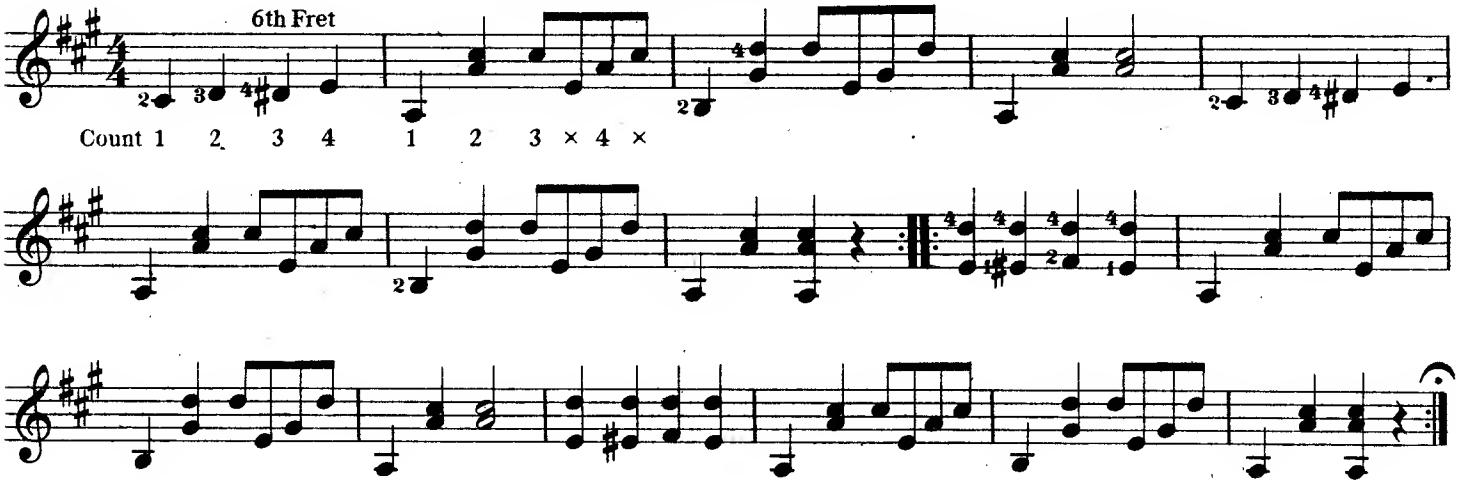
* SNAP or pull string with 4th finger of left hand to make the next note (B).

* SLUR F by playing E in usual manner then dropping 2nd finger on F without using right hand etc.

OLD TIME JIG Nº 1.



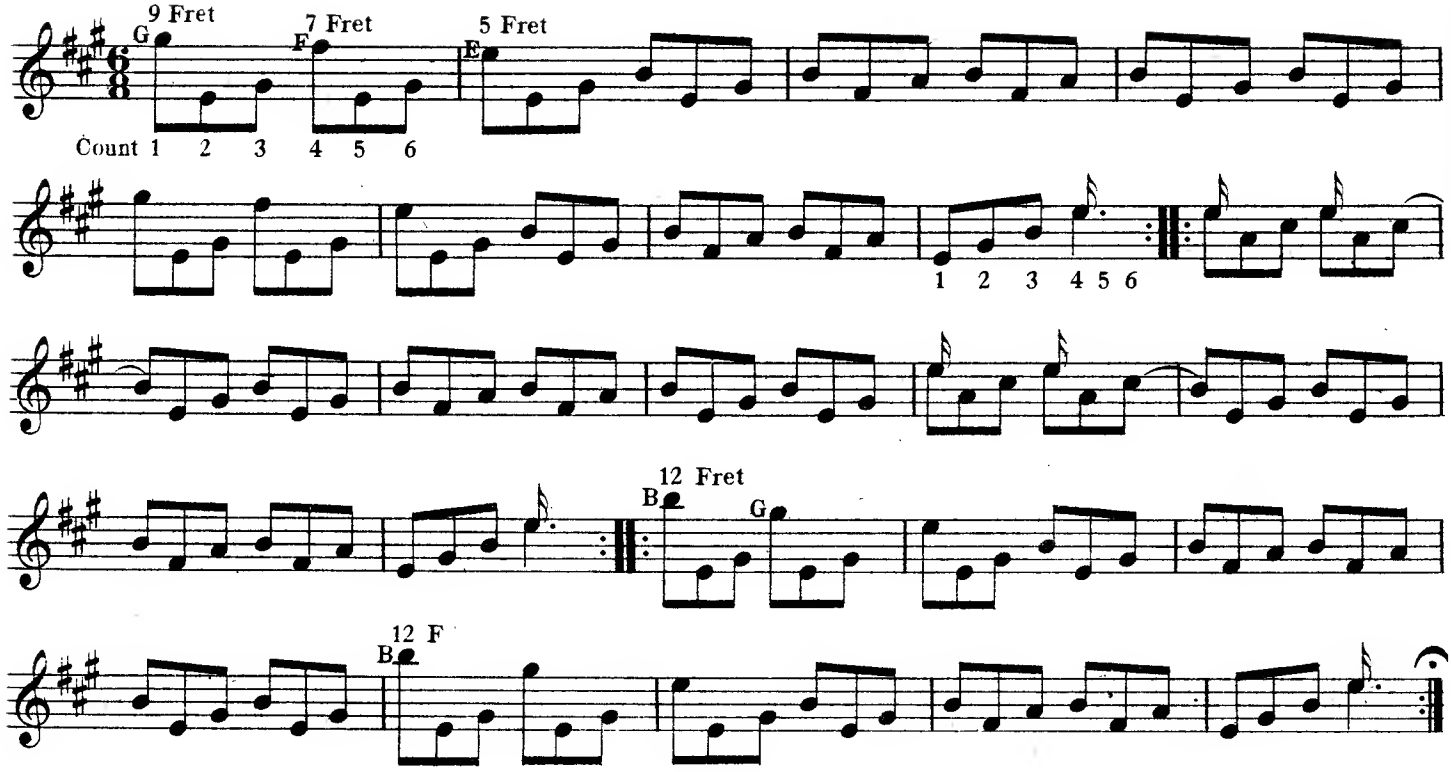
OLD TIME JIG Nº 2.



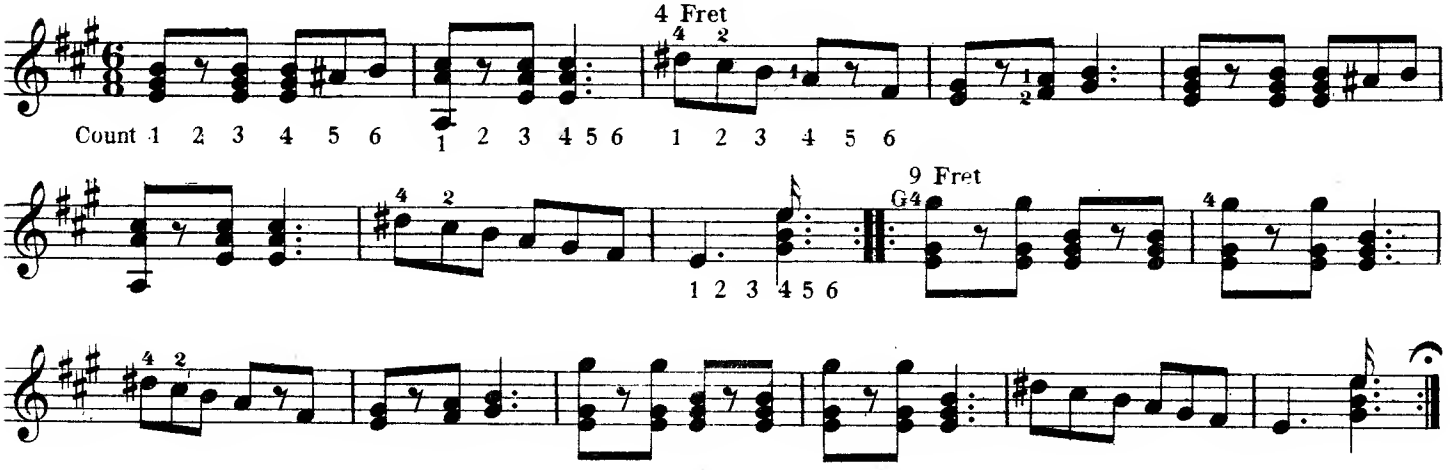
♯	Sharp	A Sharp raises a note a half tone.
♭	Flat	A Flat lowers a note a half tone.
×	Double Sharp	A Double Sharp raises a note a whole tone.
♭♭	Double Flat	A Double Flat lowers a note a whole tone.
♮	Natural	A Natural contradicts a sharp or flat.

FANDANGO

Introducing $\frac{6}{8}$ time.

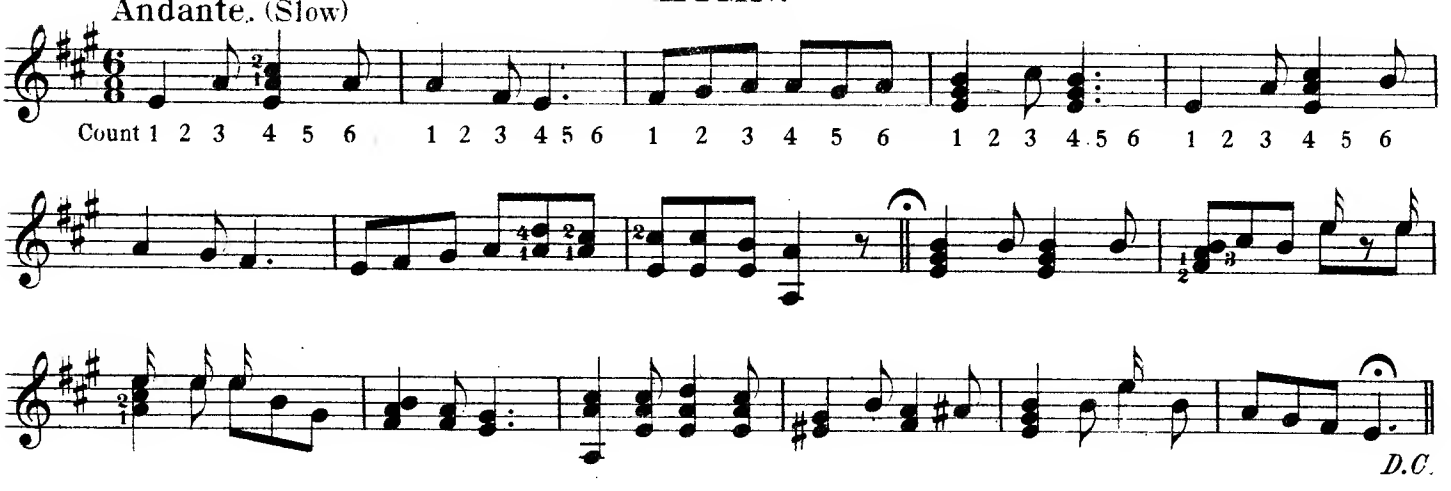


MELODY.

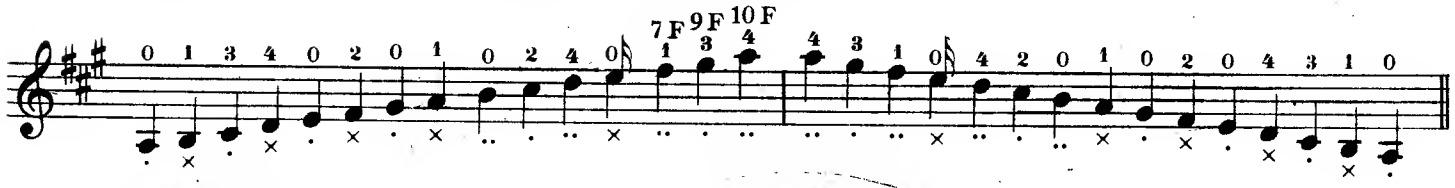


HYMN.

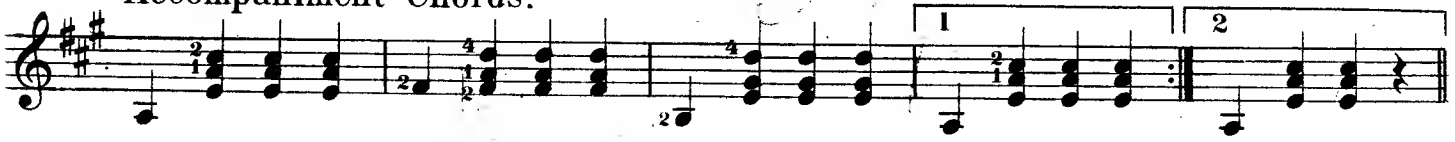
Andante. (Slow)



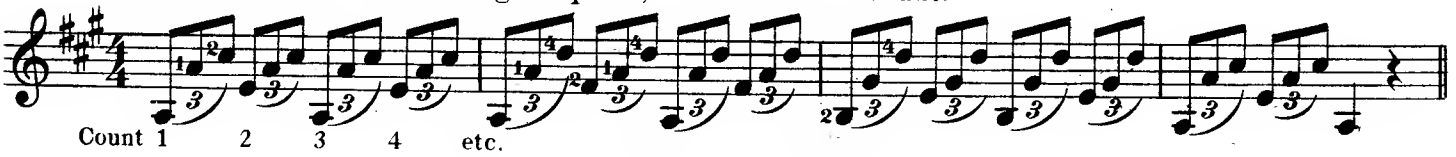
SCALE of A major (Natural Key of the Banjo)



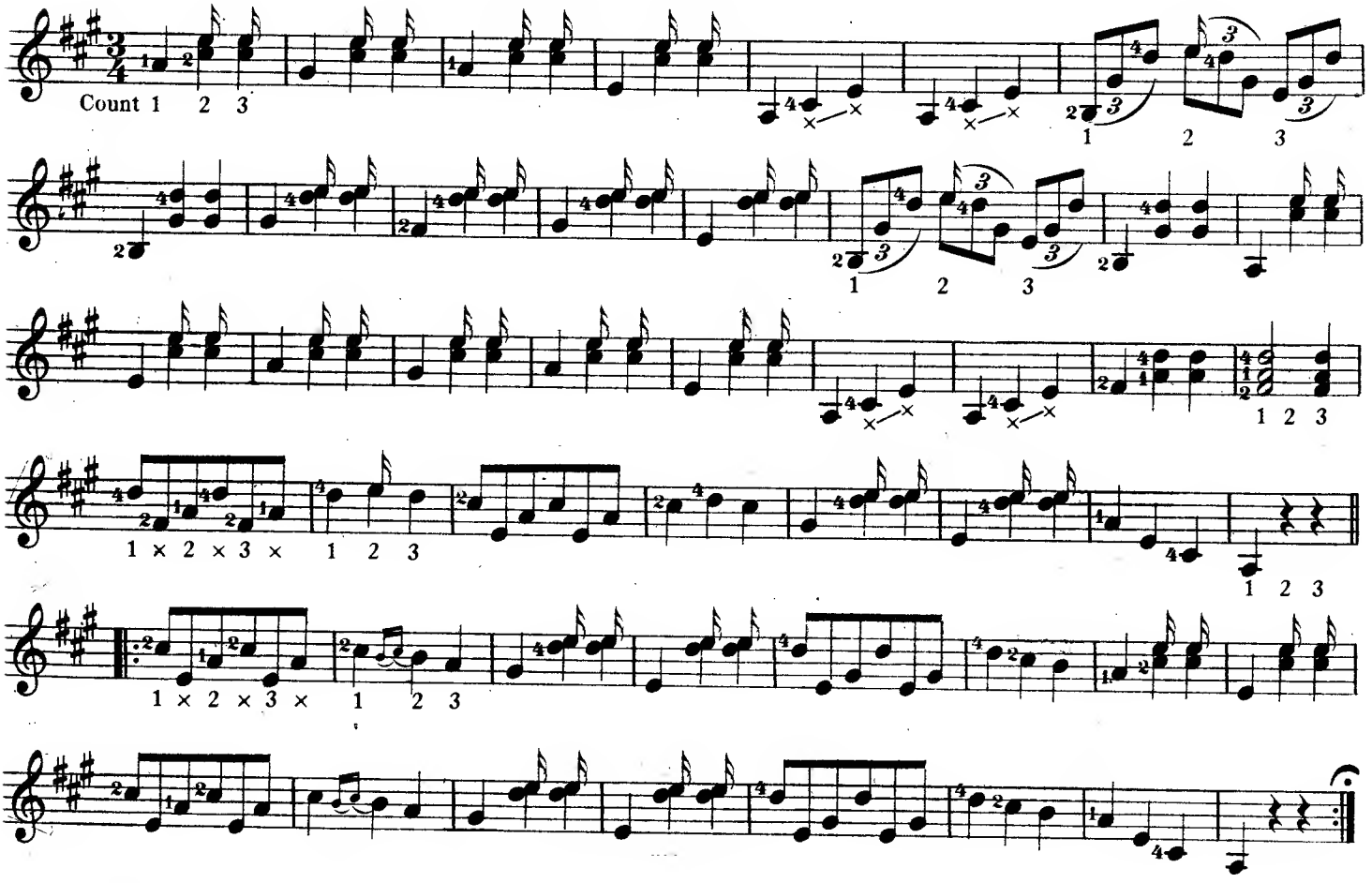
Accompaniment Chords.



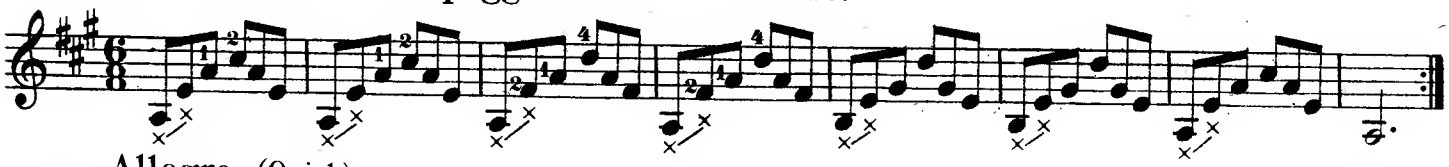
EXERCISE Introducing Triplets, 3 notes to one count.



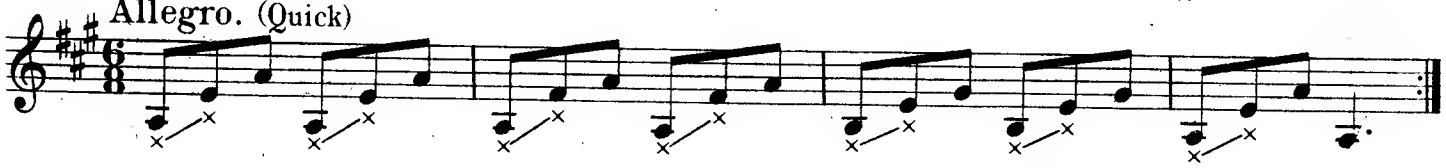
GRACIE WALTZ.



EXERCISE for Arpeggios or Roll Chords.

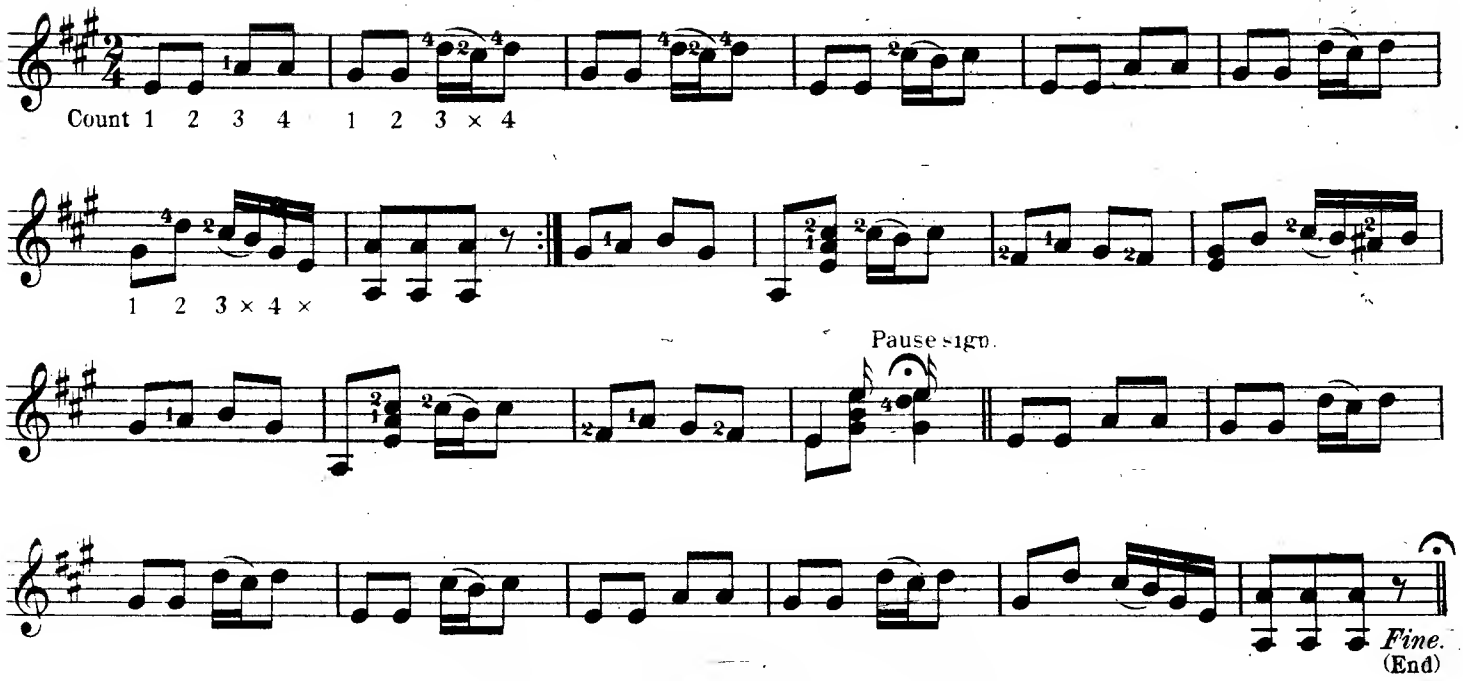


Allegro. (Quick)



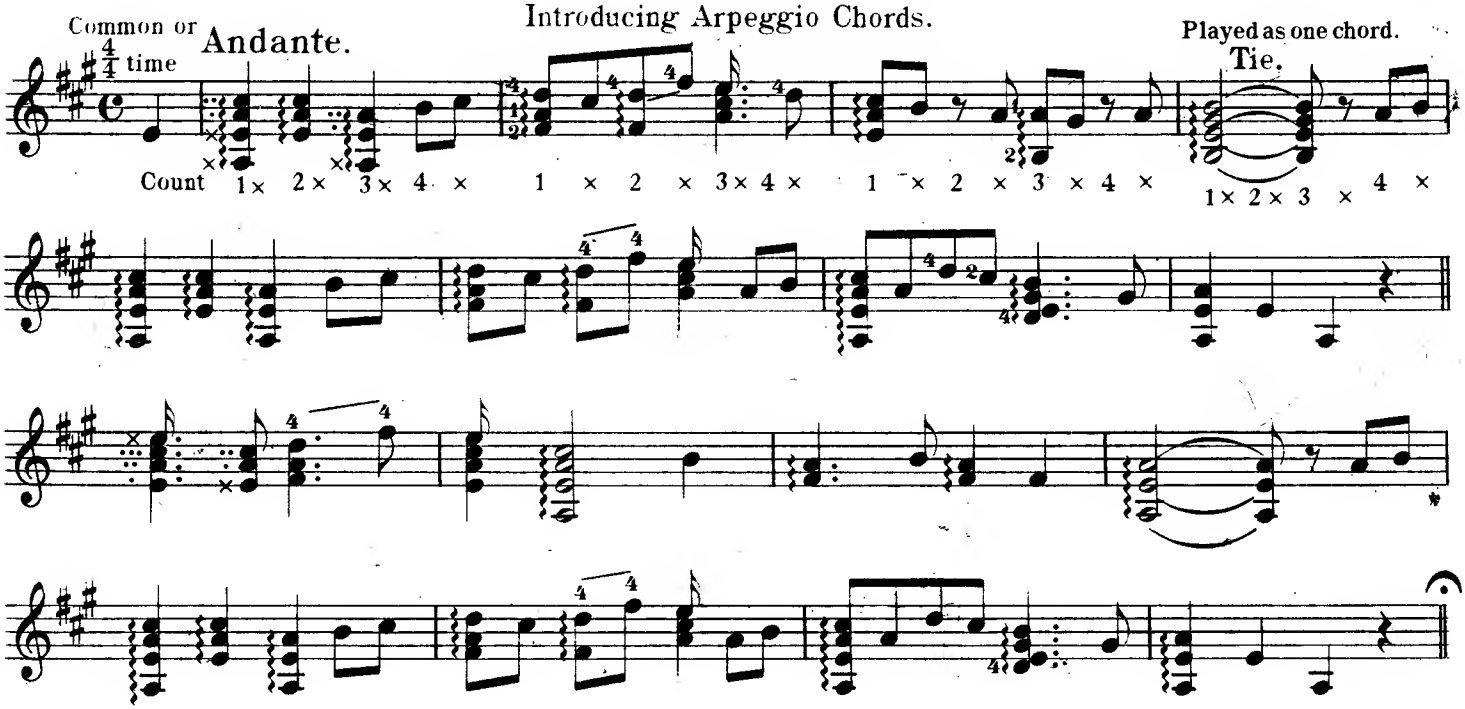
LITTLE GEM POLKA.

Introducing Sixteenth Notes.

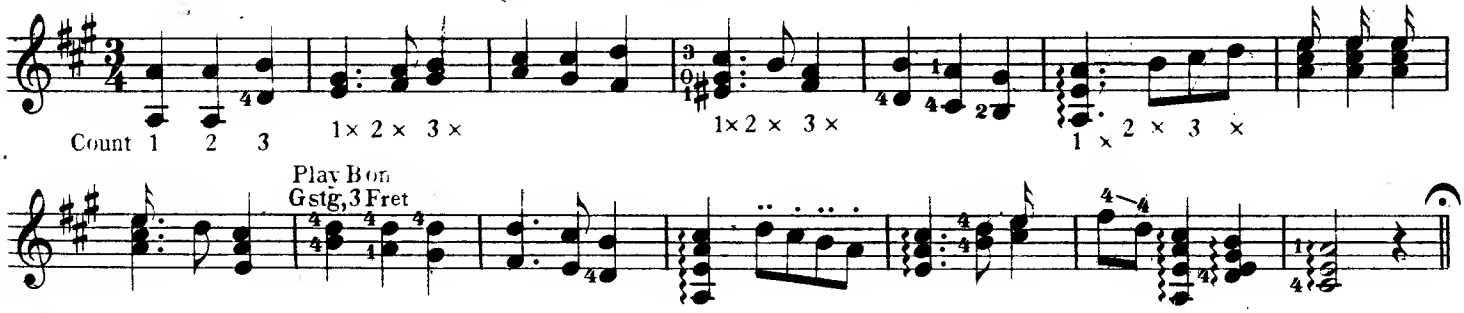


MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME.

Introducing Arpeggio Chords.



AMERICA.

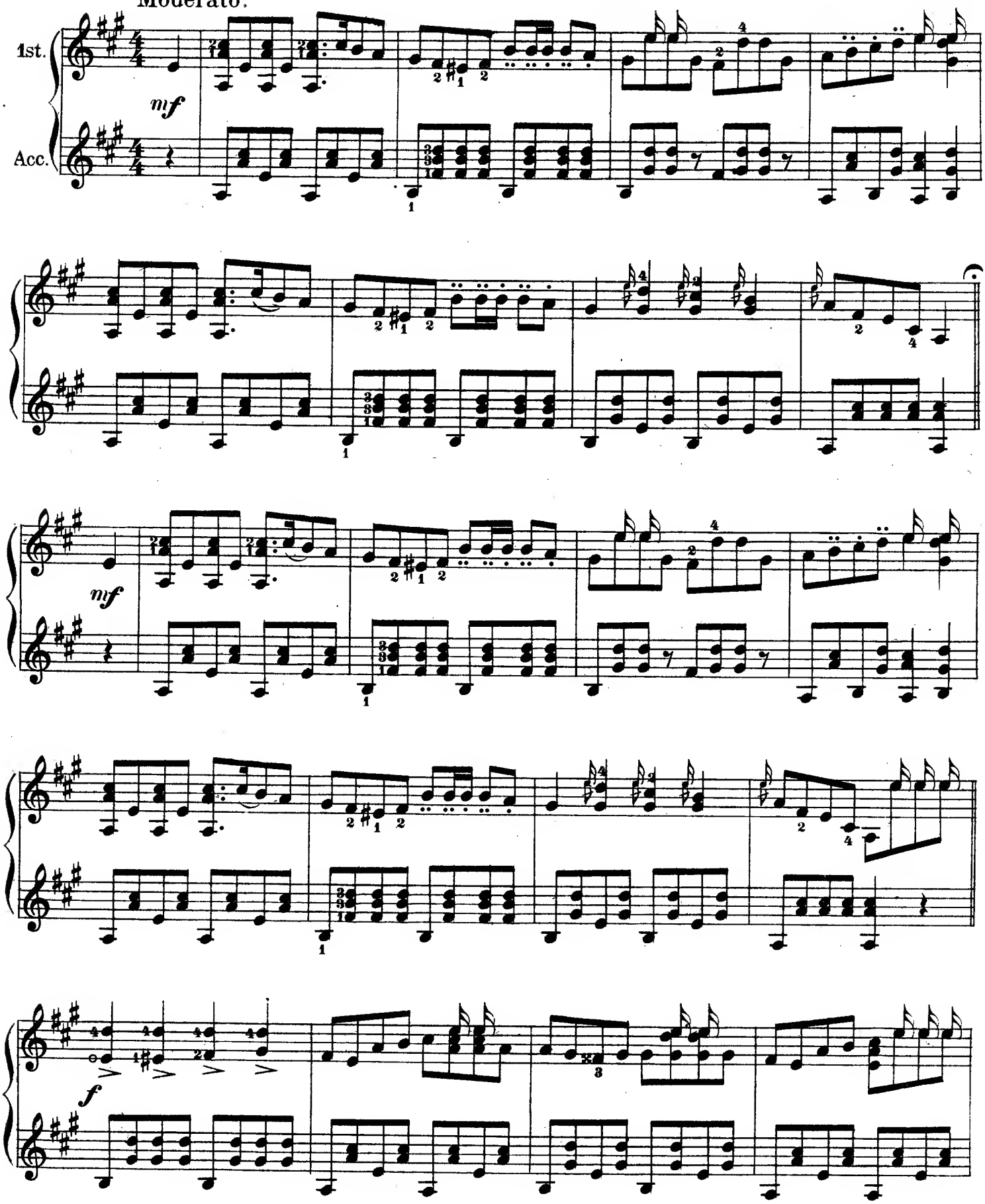


JOLLY DAYS MARCH.

TWO BANJOS.

J. H. Jennings

Moderato.



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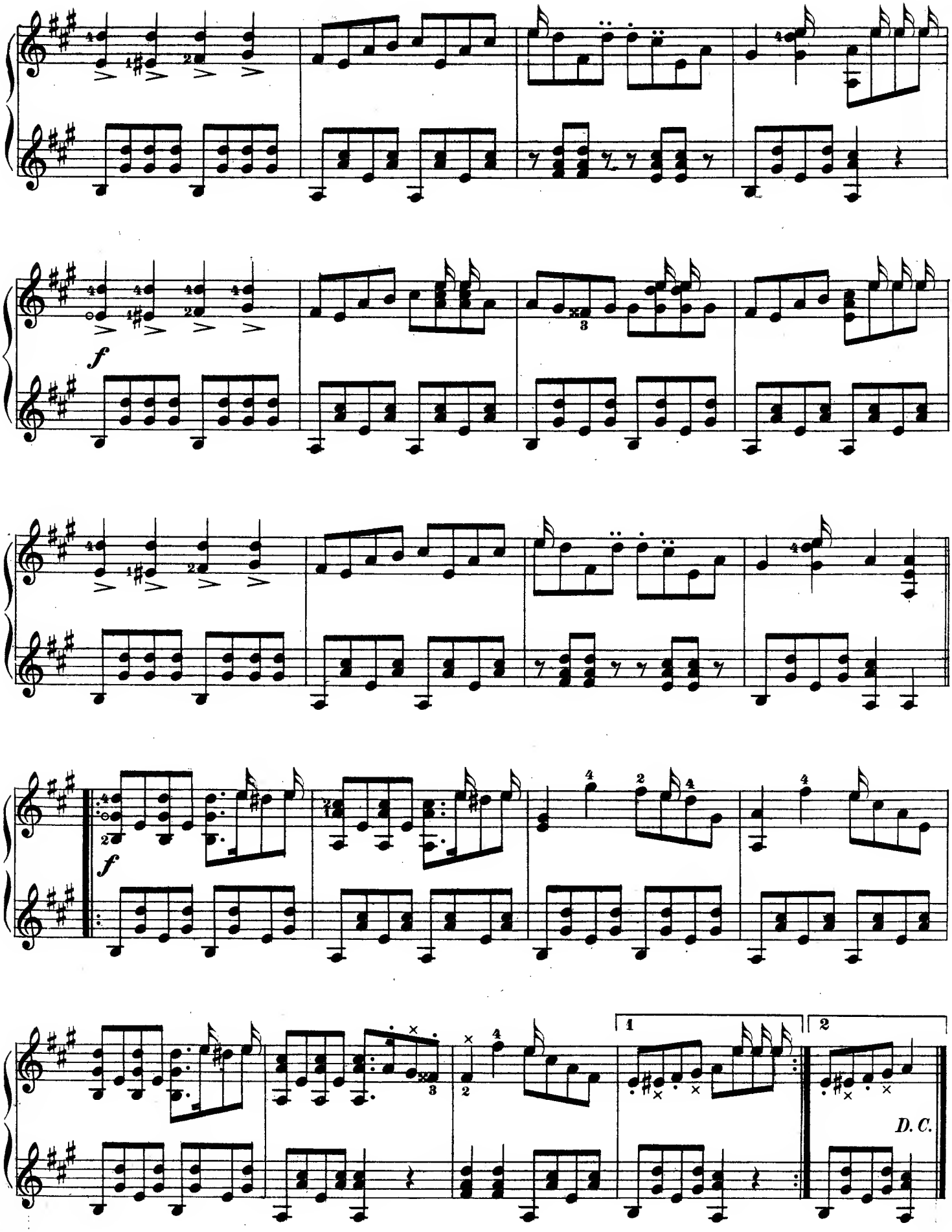
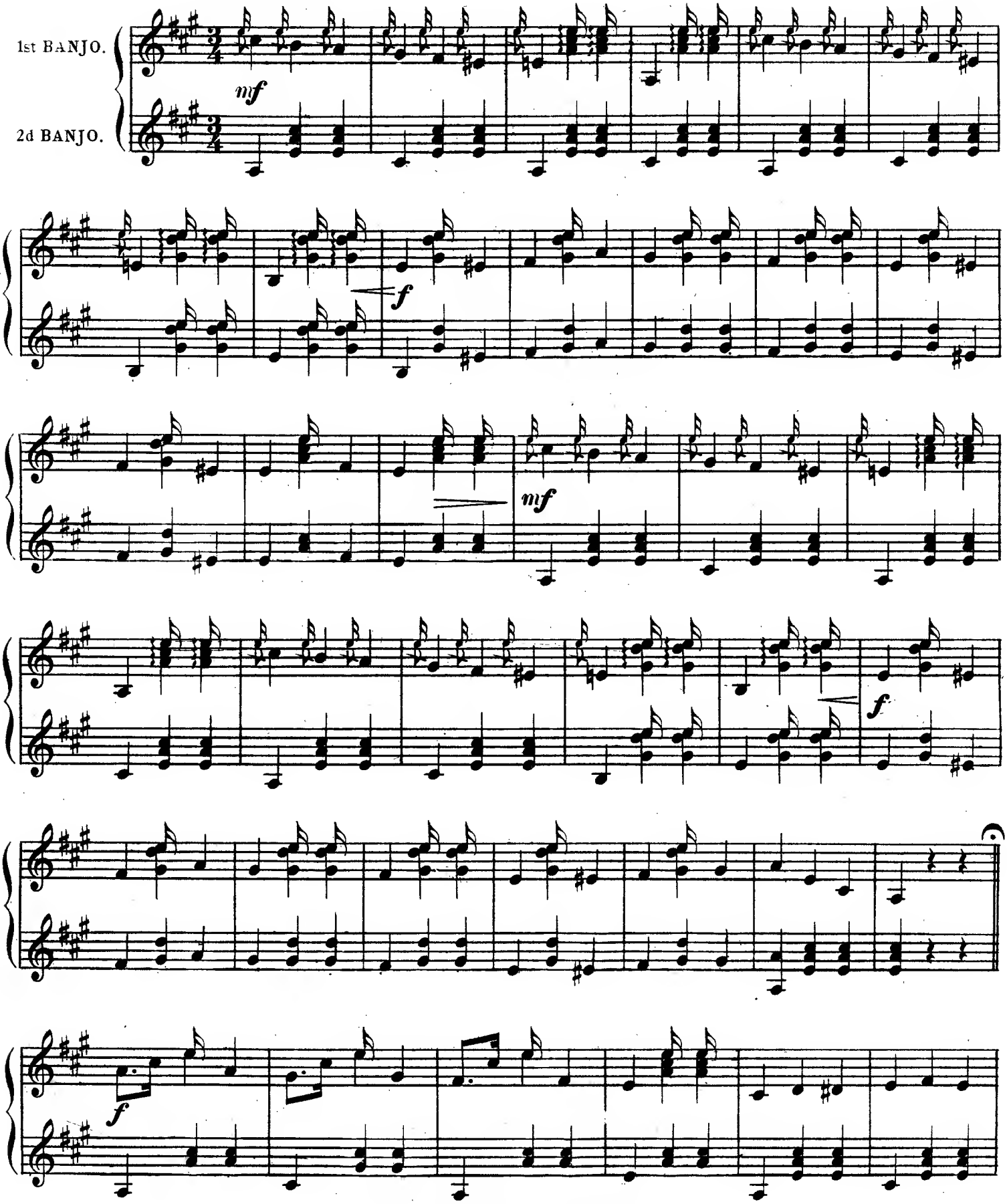

f
f
1
2
D. C.

To Miss A. E. Van Ausdall.

NIGHTINGALE WALTZ.

J. H. JENNINGS.

Moderato.



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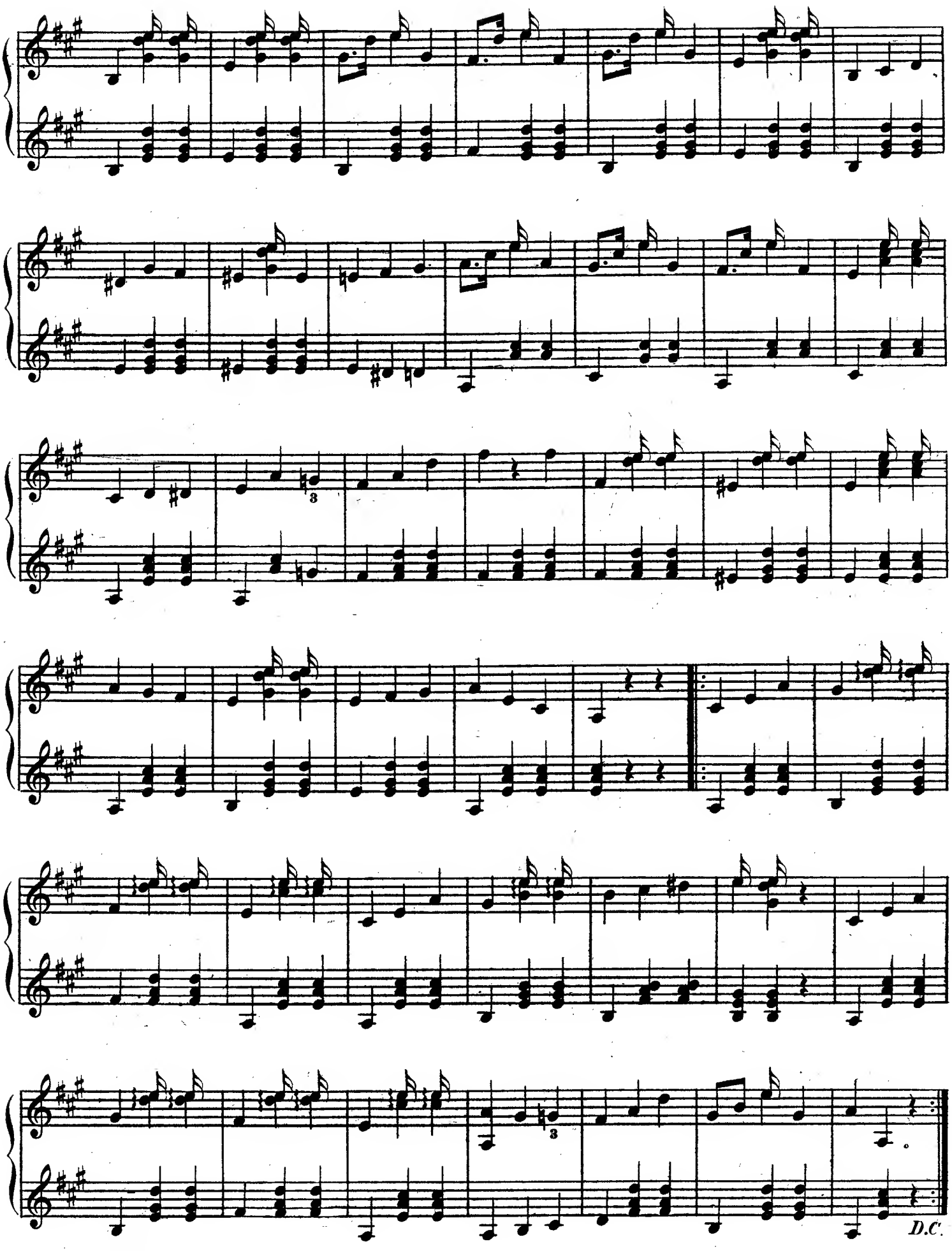
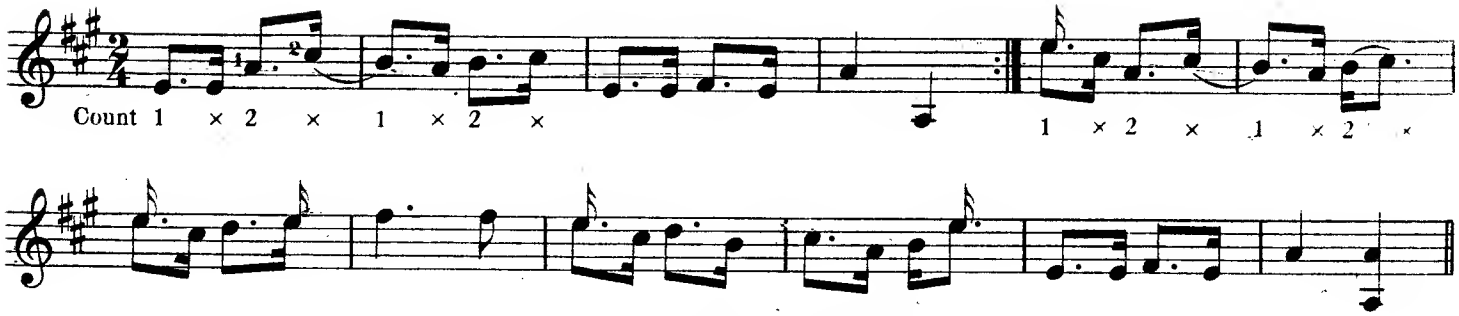

3
3
D.C.

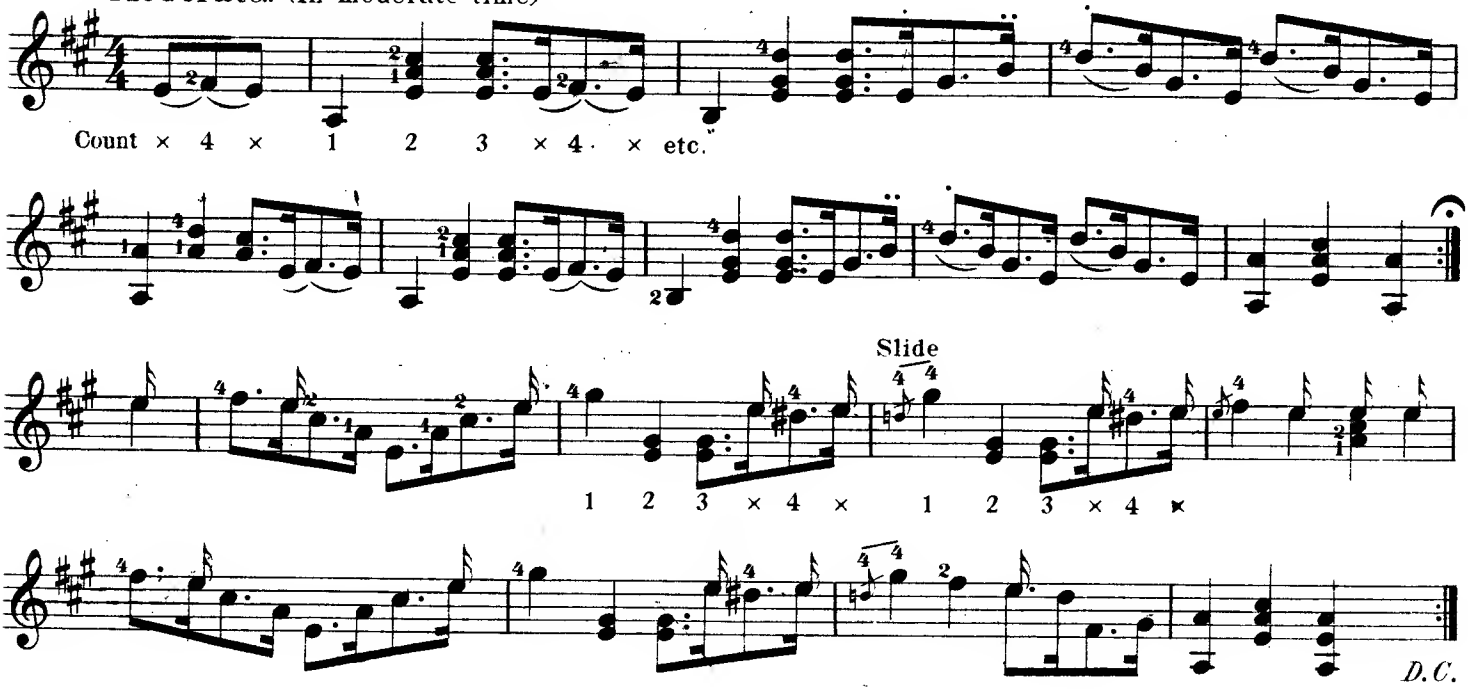
COMING THRO' THE RYE.

Introducing Dotted Eighth Notes.



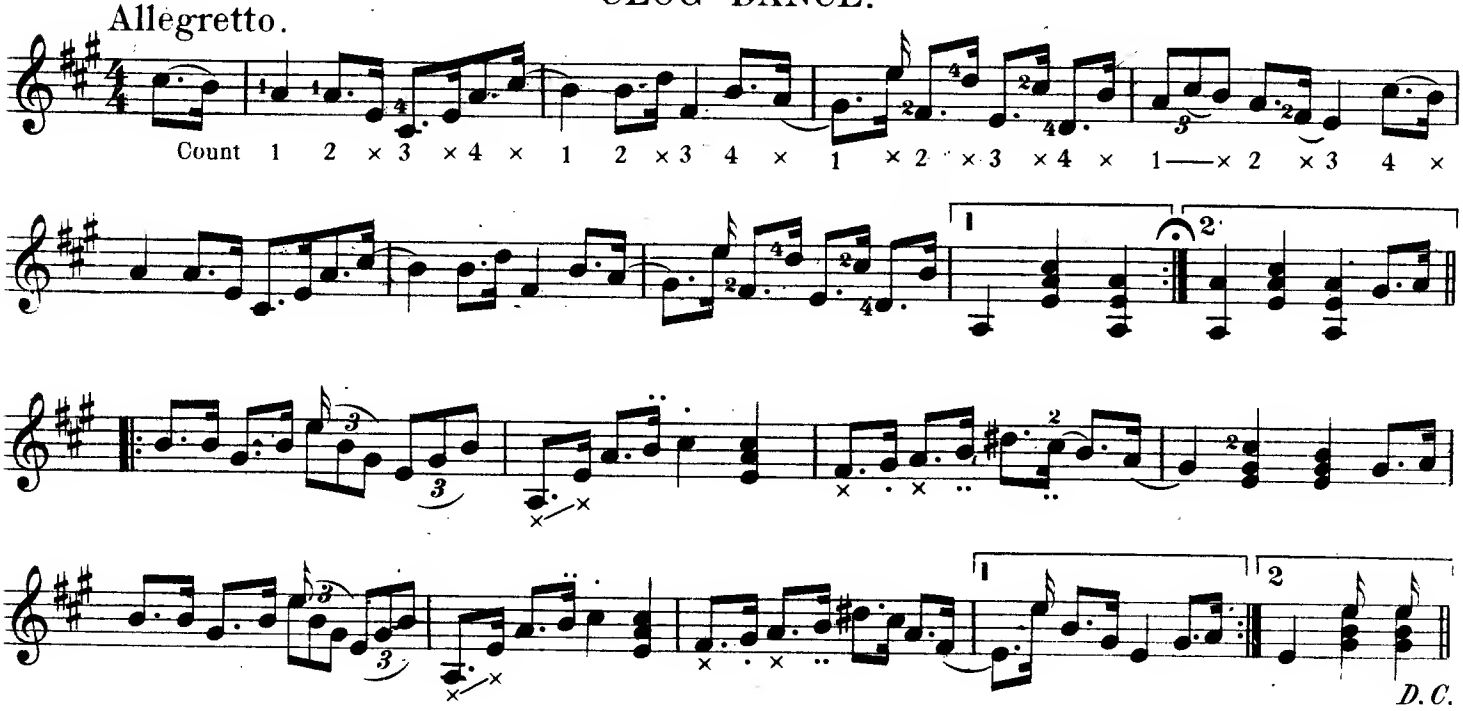
JUNIE SCHOTTISCHE.

Moderato. (In moderate time)



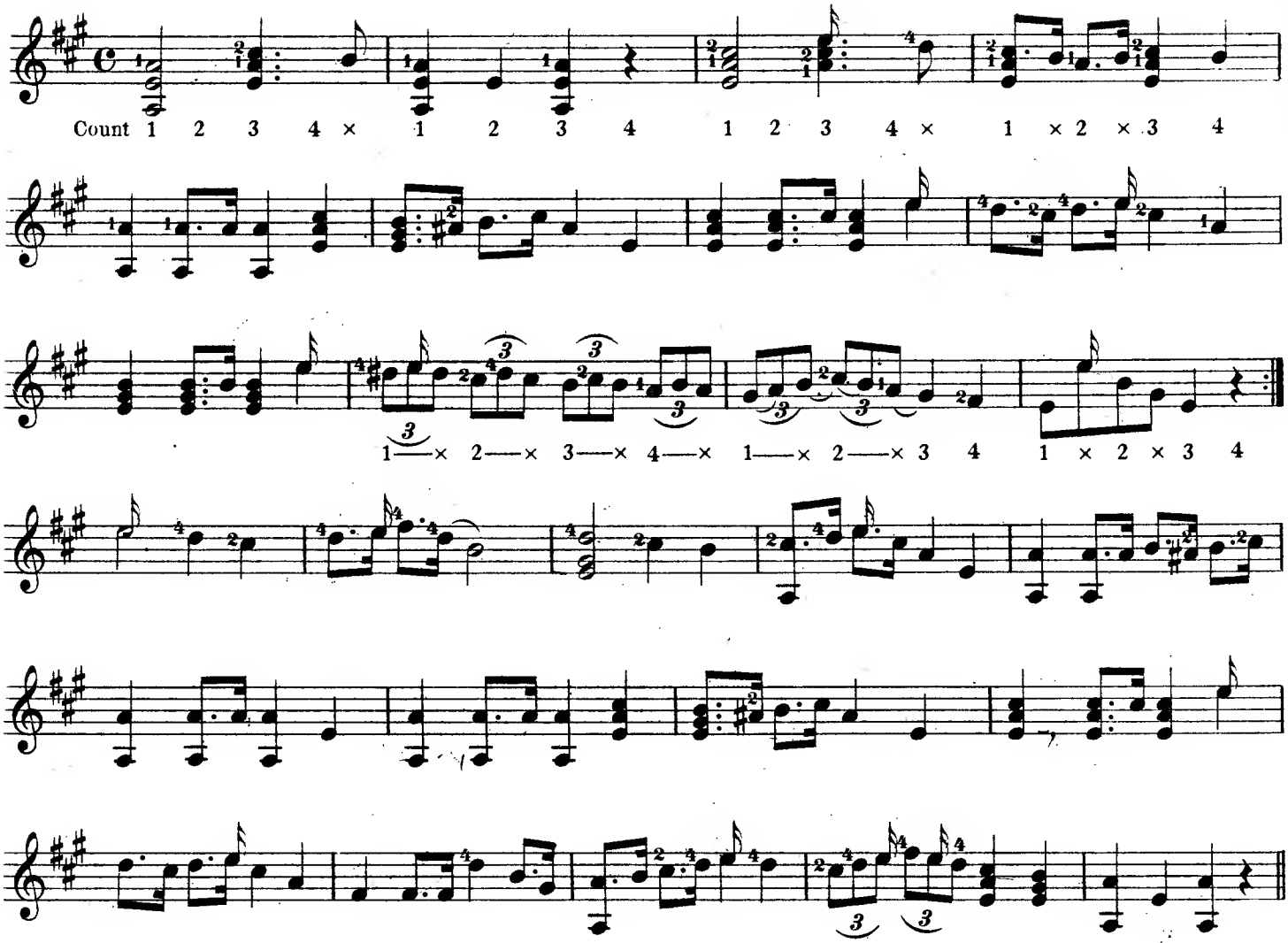
CLOG DANCE.

Allegretto.

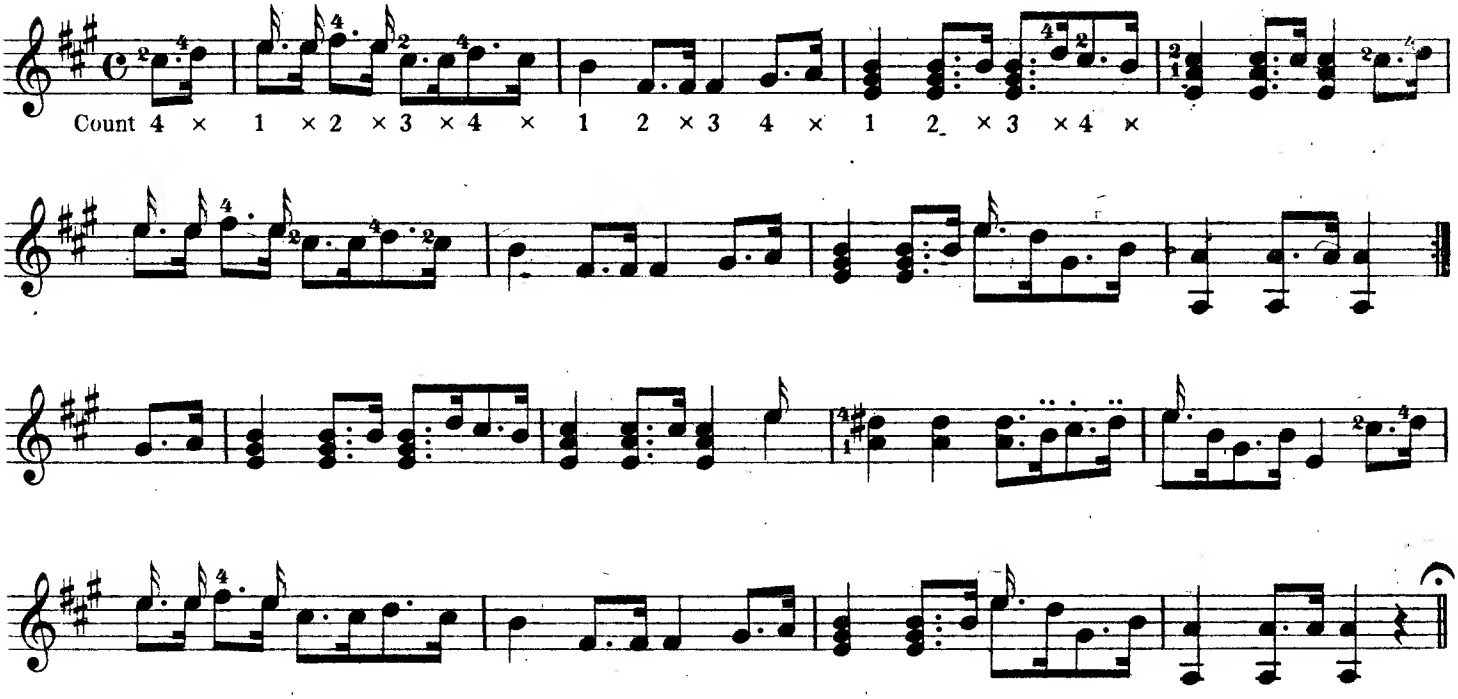


HAIL COLUMBIA.

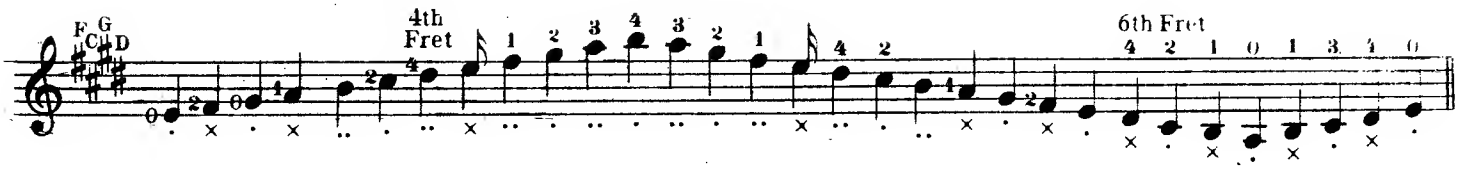
Time Study.



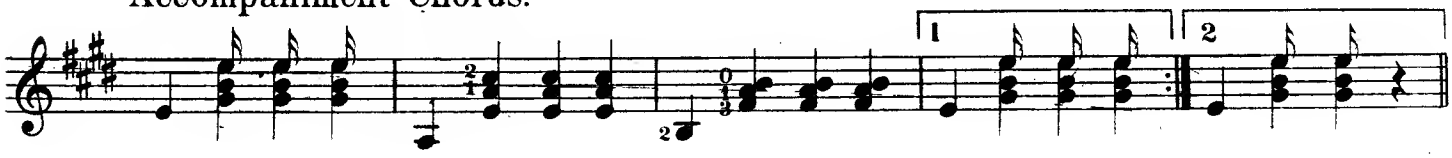
MARCHING SONG.



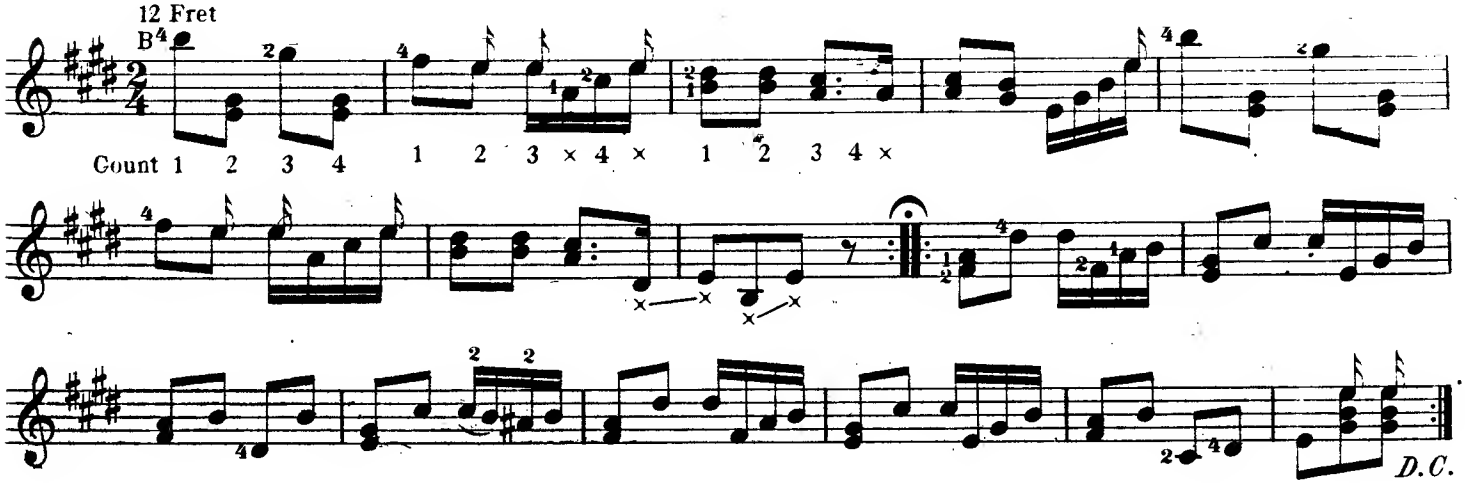
SCALE of E major. F. C. G. D. are made sharp.



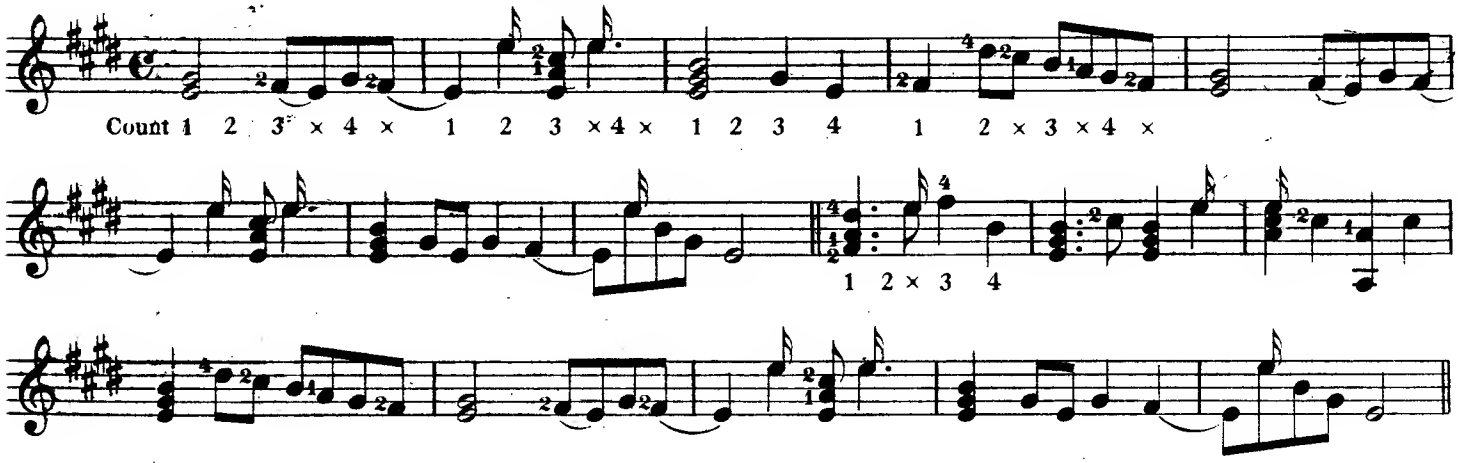
Accompaniment Chords.



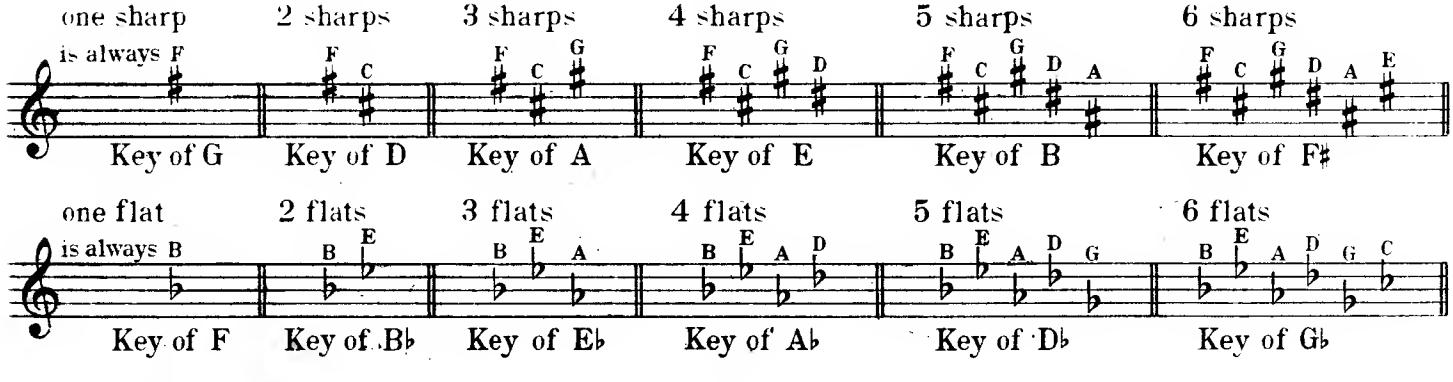
EVA POLKA.



OLD FOLKS AT HOME.

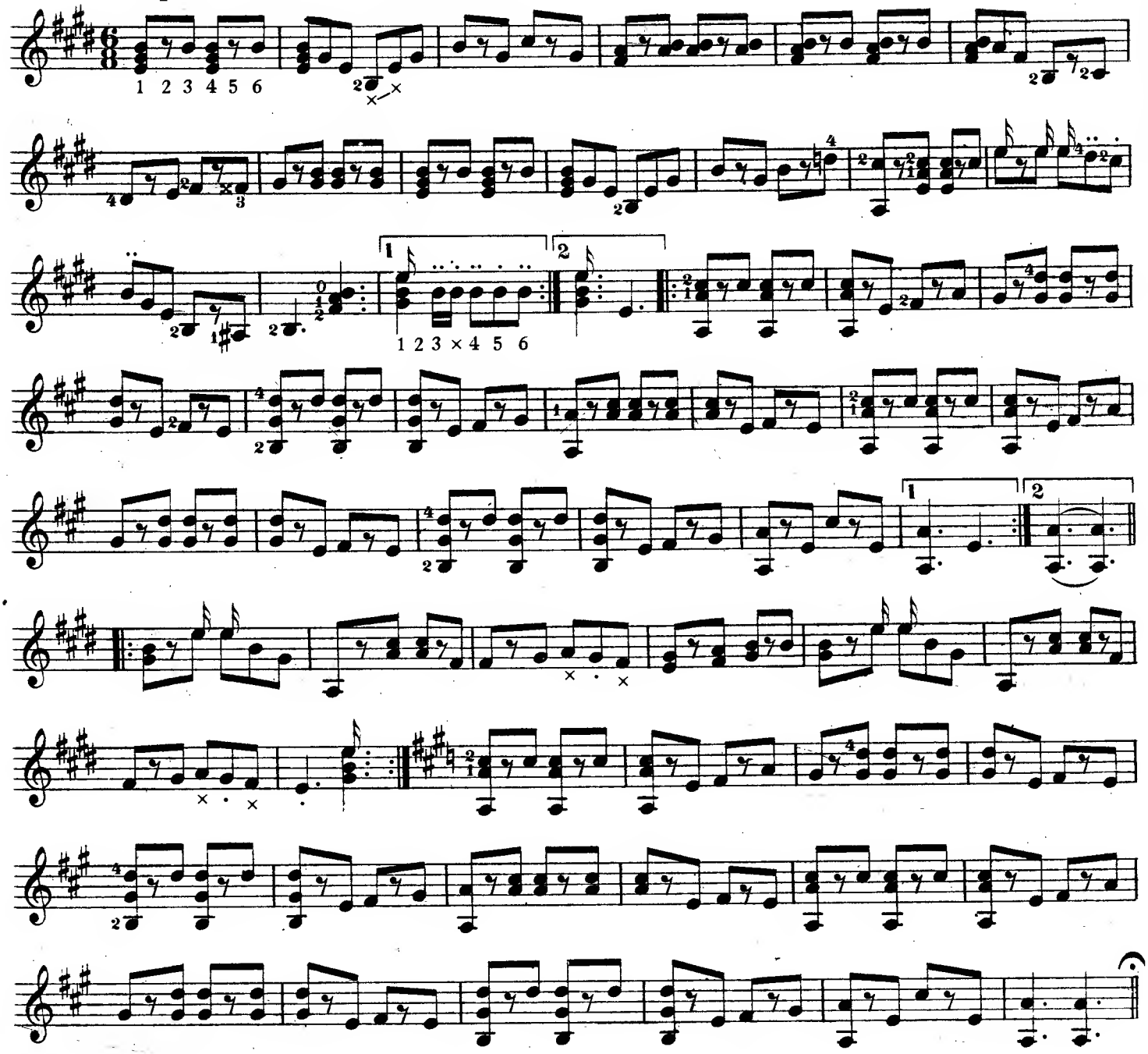


Memorize the following { Sharps F. C. G. D. A. E. B.
Flats B. E. A. D. G. C. F.



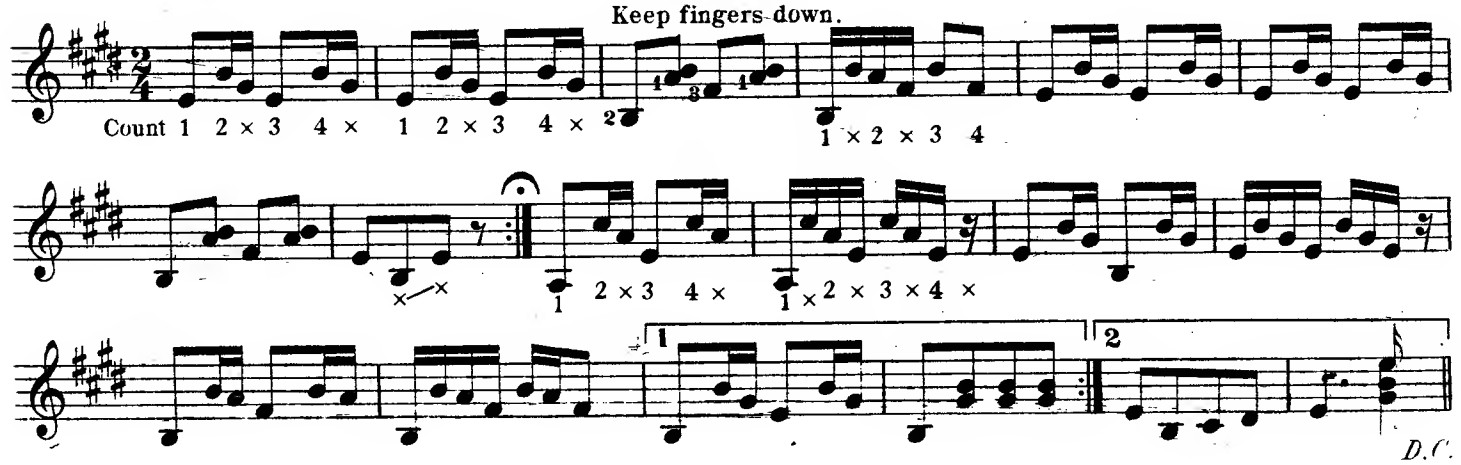
CADETS MARCH.

Tempo di Marcia. (In March time.)



REEL.

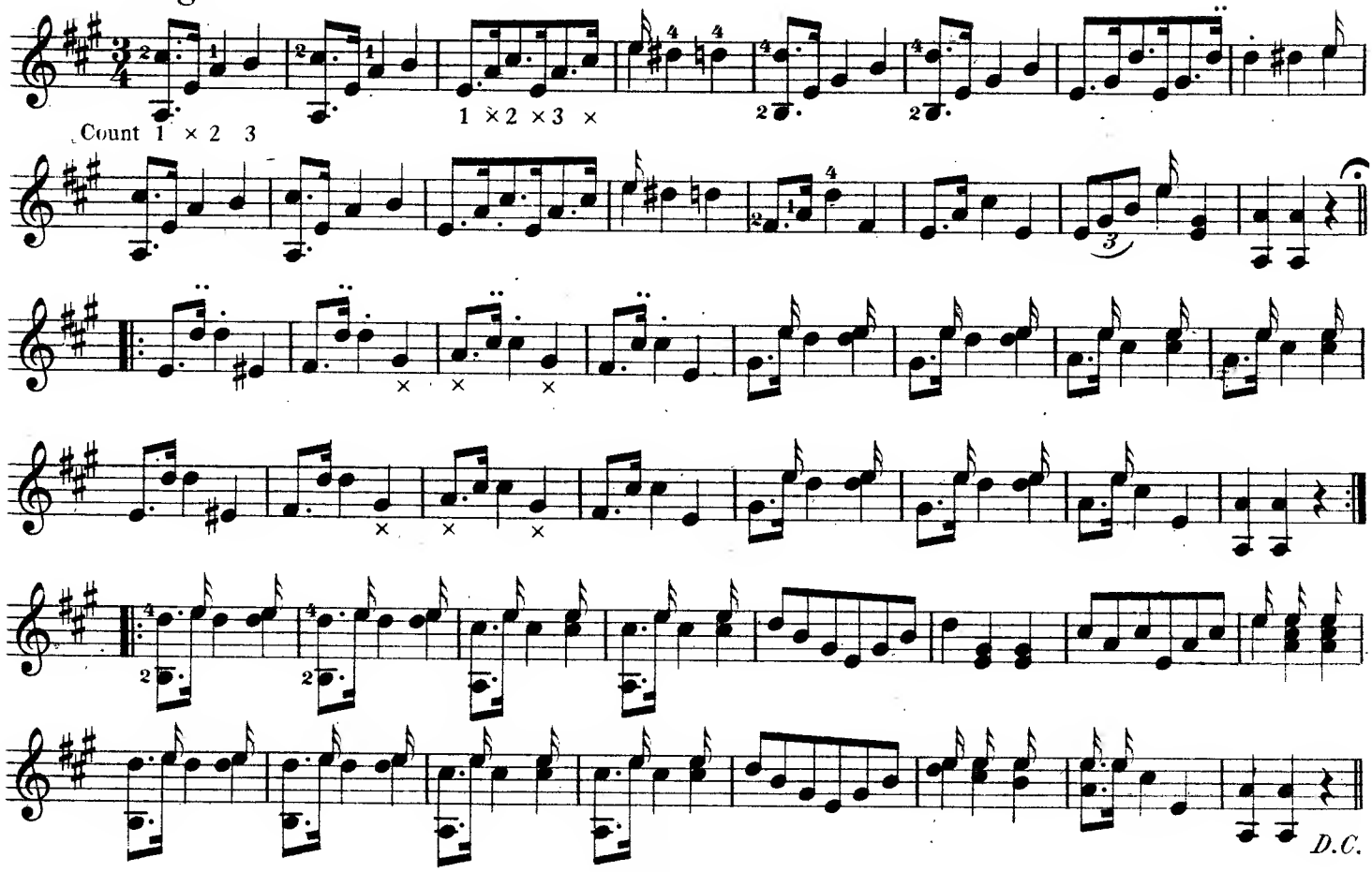
Keep fingers down.



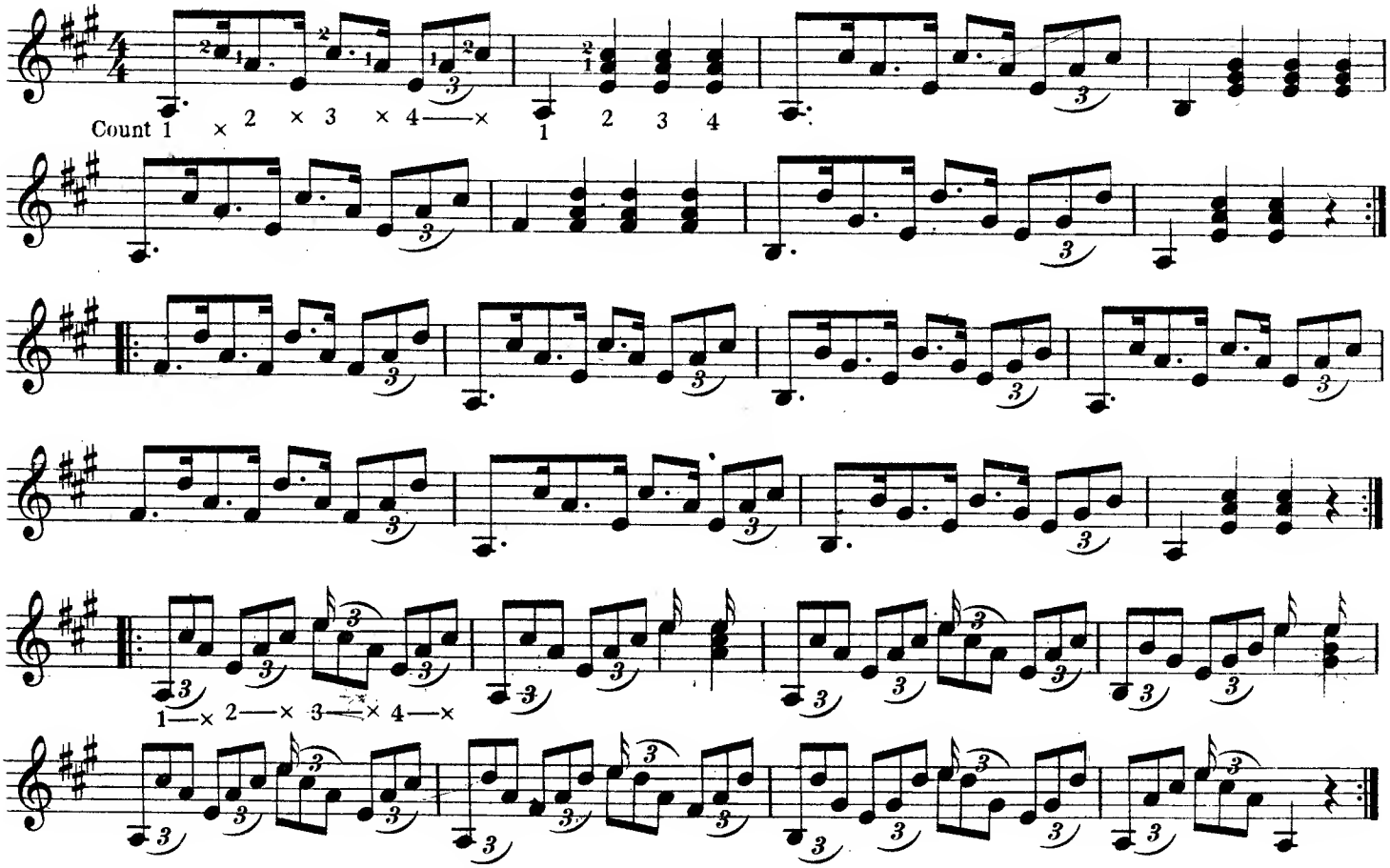
D.C.

SUNSHINE MAZURKA.

Allegretto.

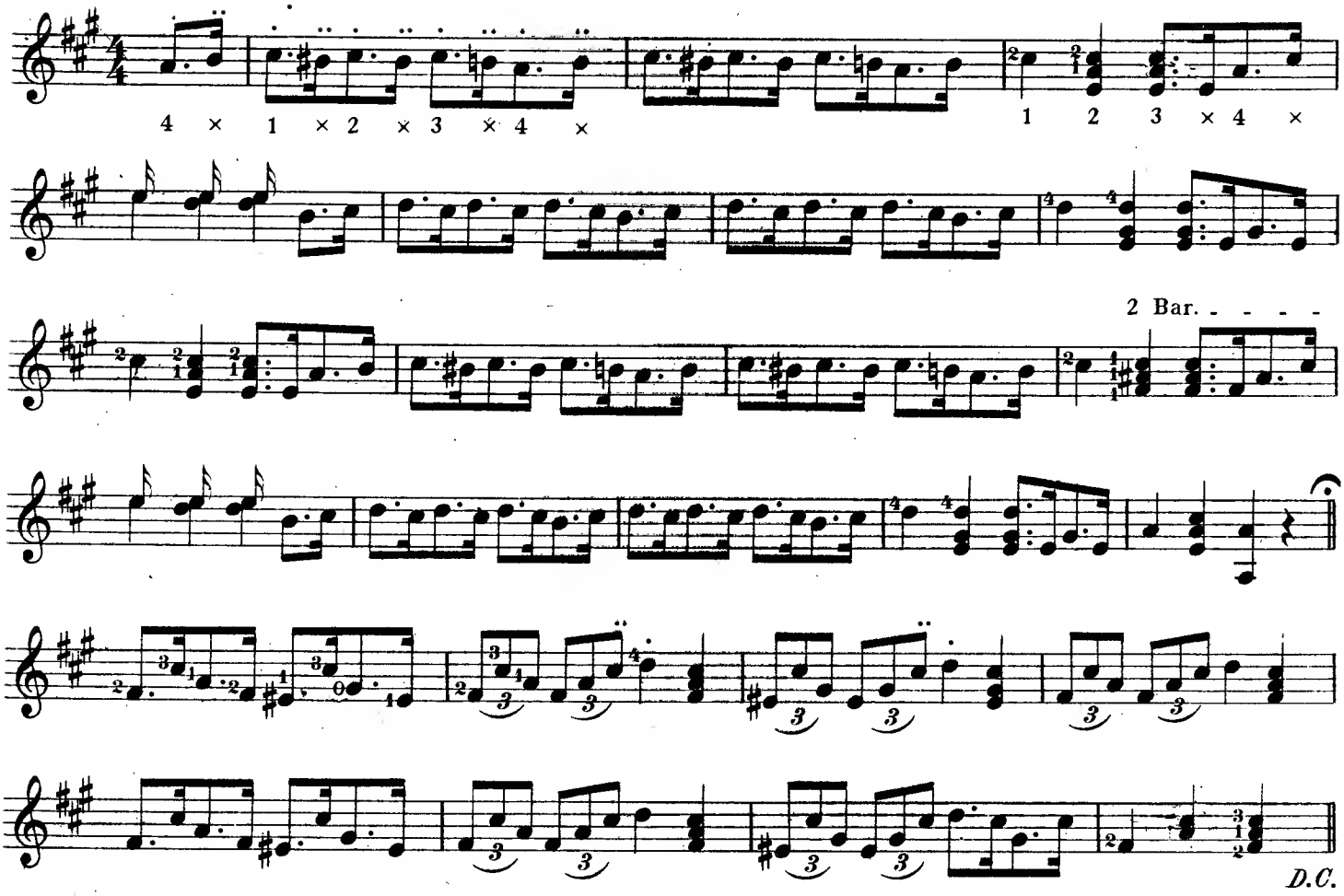


BANJO JIG.

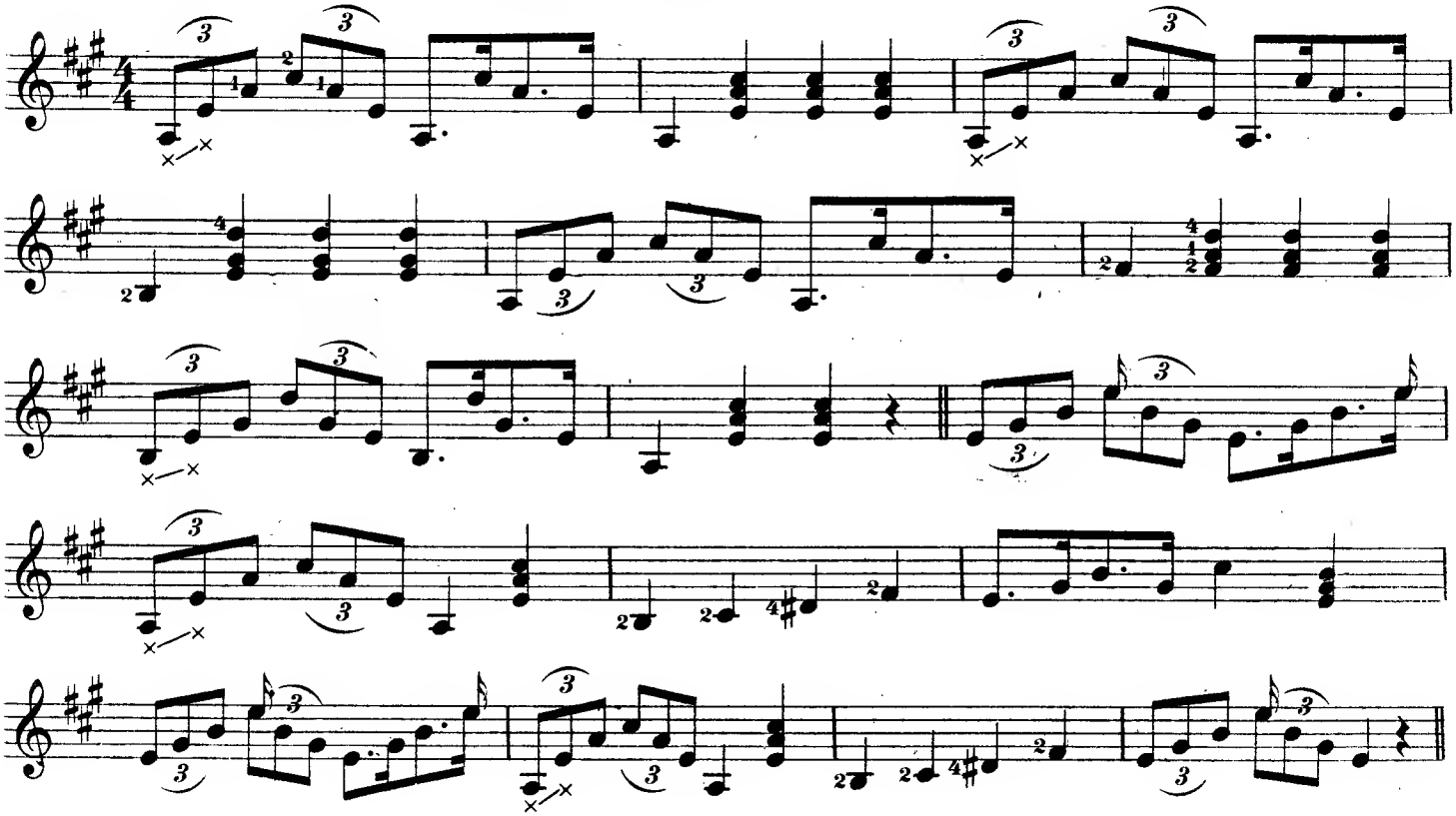


HONOLULU SCHOTTISCHE.

Study in Dotted Time and Double Fingering.



RIGHT HAND EXERCISE.



Tune Bass to B, or Bass Elevated

signifies to tune the Banjo as usual with the exception of the Bass string, which is tuned one whole tone higher. B note is open.

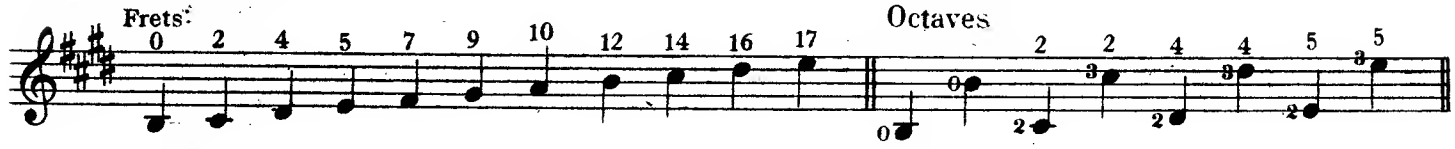
NOTES on BASS STRING.

Tune Bass to B

Frets: 0 2 4 5 7 9 10 12 14 16 17

BASS and 1st STG'S.

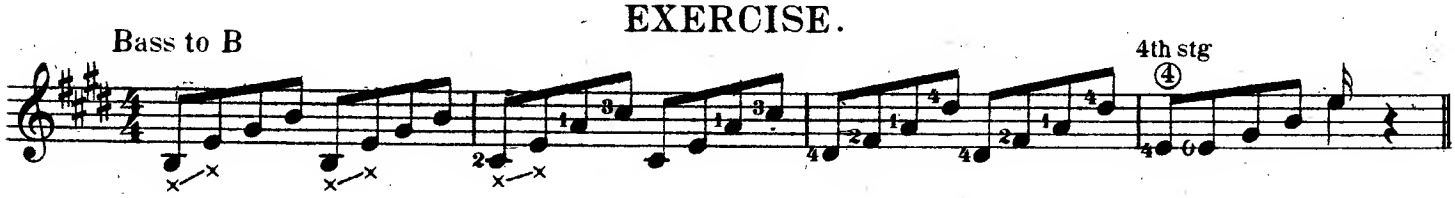
Octaves



EXERCISE.

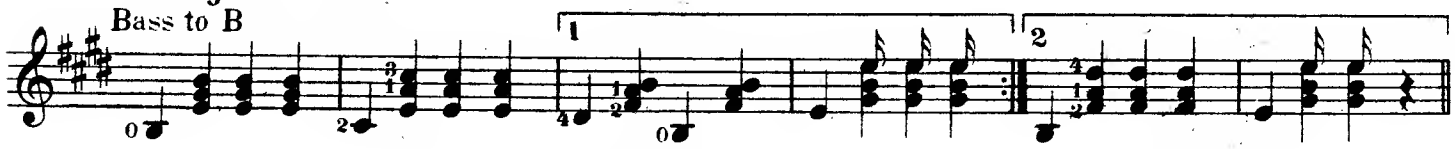
Bass to B

4th stg ④



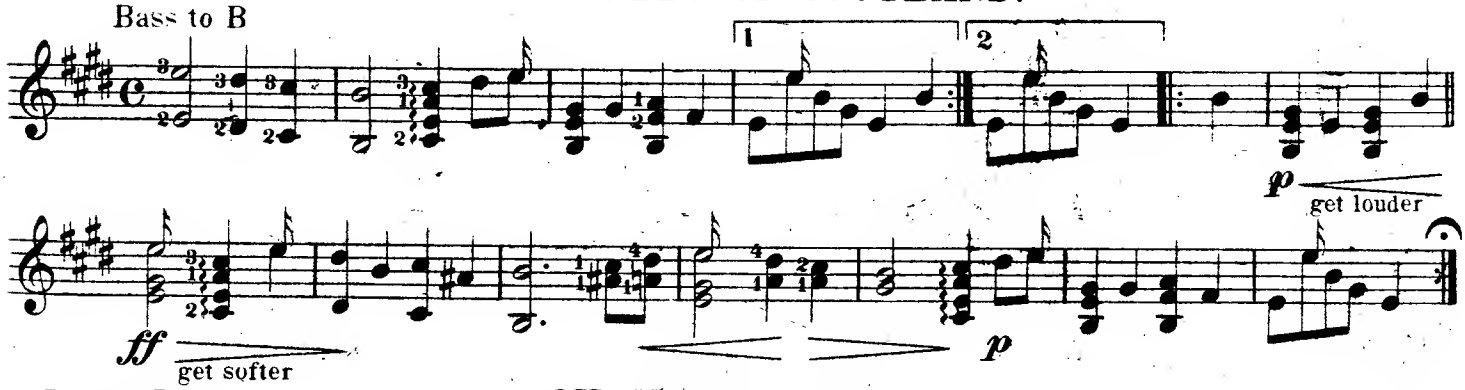
E major Chords.

Bass to B



BLUE BELLS OF SCOTLAND.

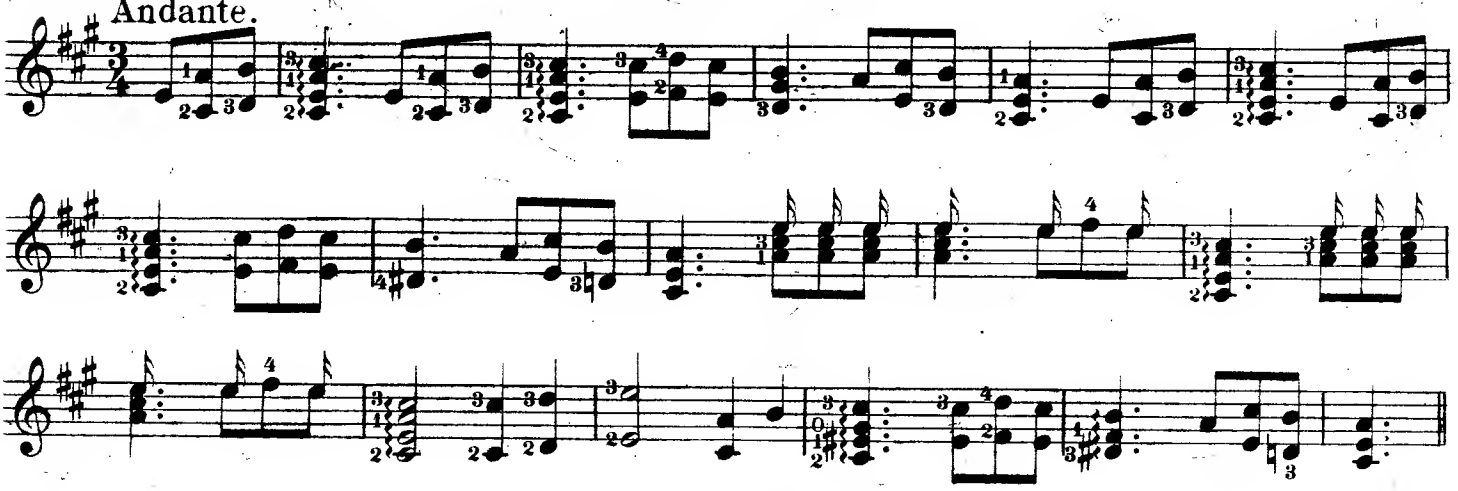
Bass to B



OH HAPPY DAY.

Bass to B

Andante.



HARMONICS.

Harmonics are produced by placing the 3rd or 4th finger of the left hand across one or more strings. The finger must press lightly, as soon as the string is struck the finger is removed.

SPANISH FANDANGO.

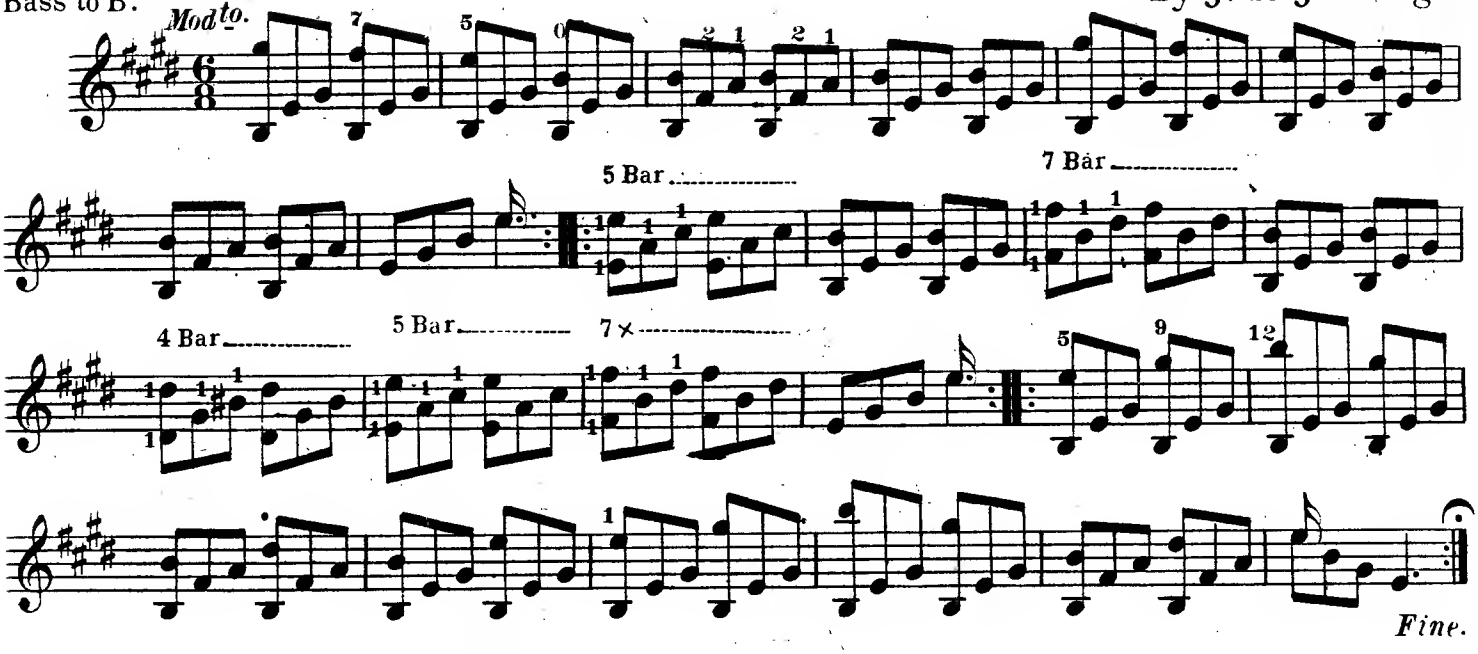
BANJO.

Easy Arrangements

By J. H. Jennings.

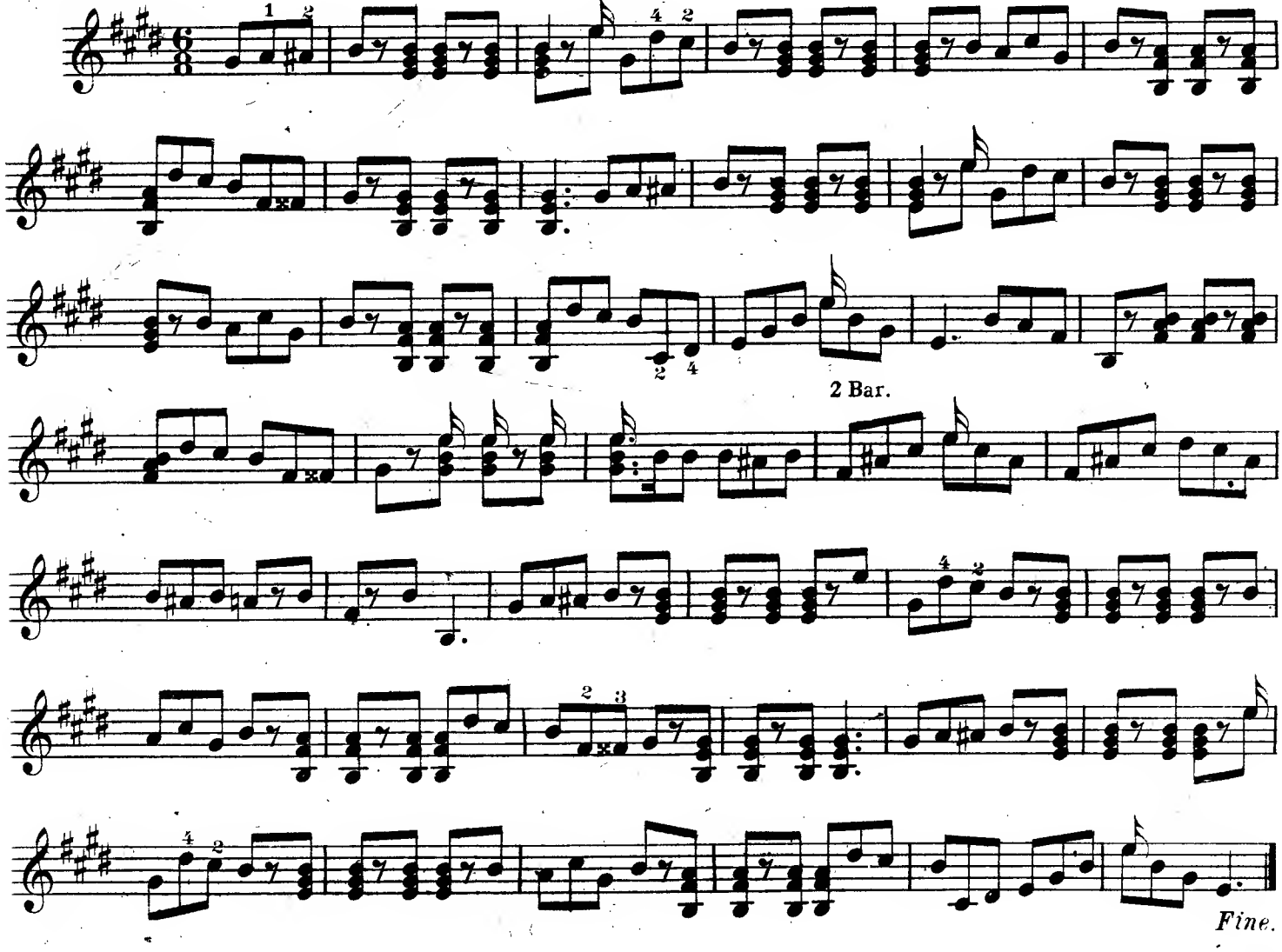
Bass to B.

Mod to.



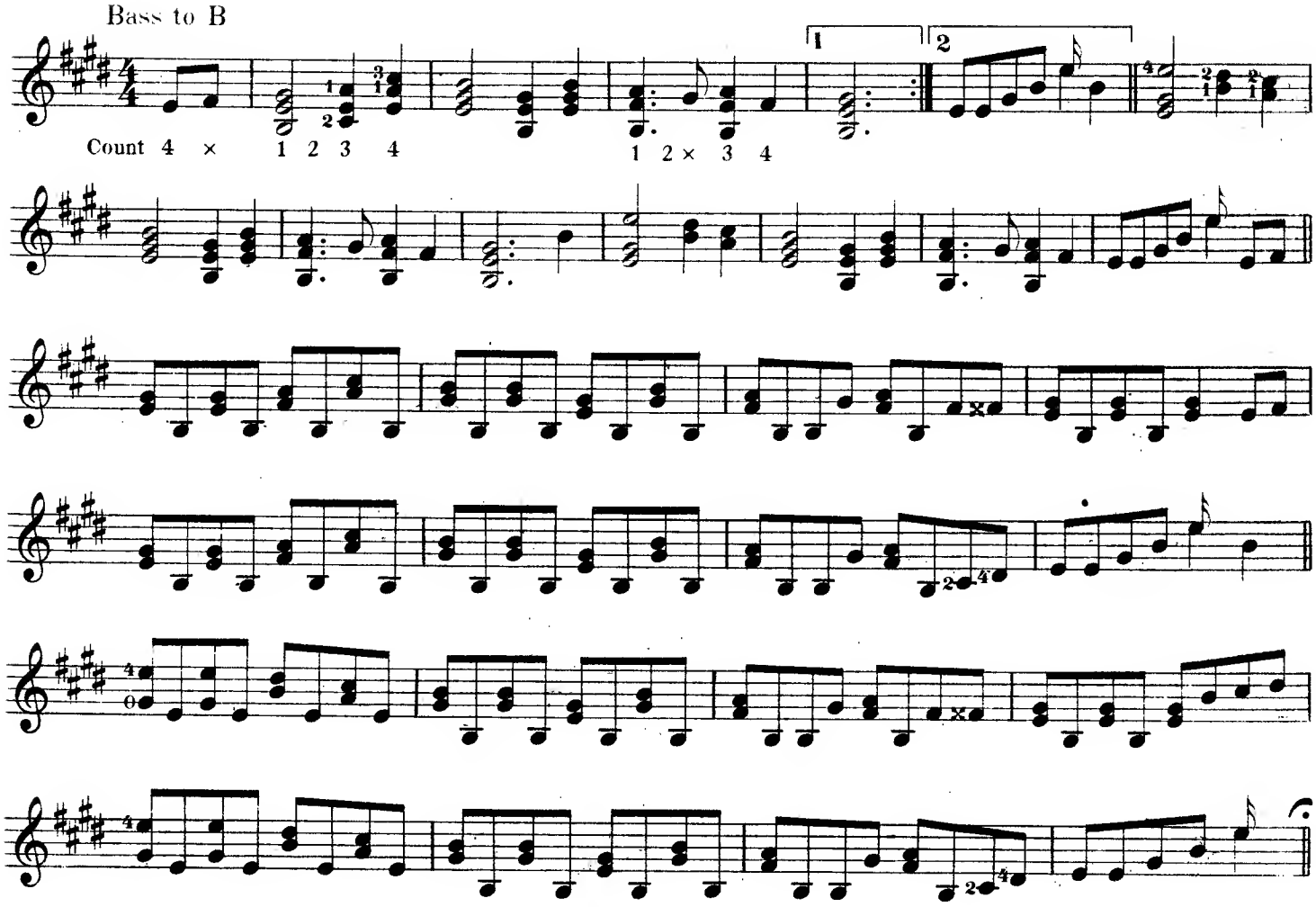
MAGIC TRICK MARCH.

Bass to B.

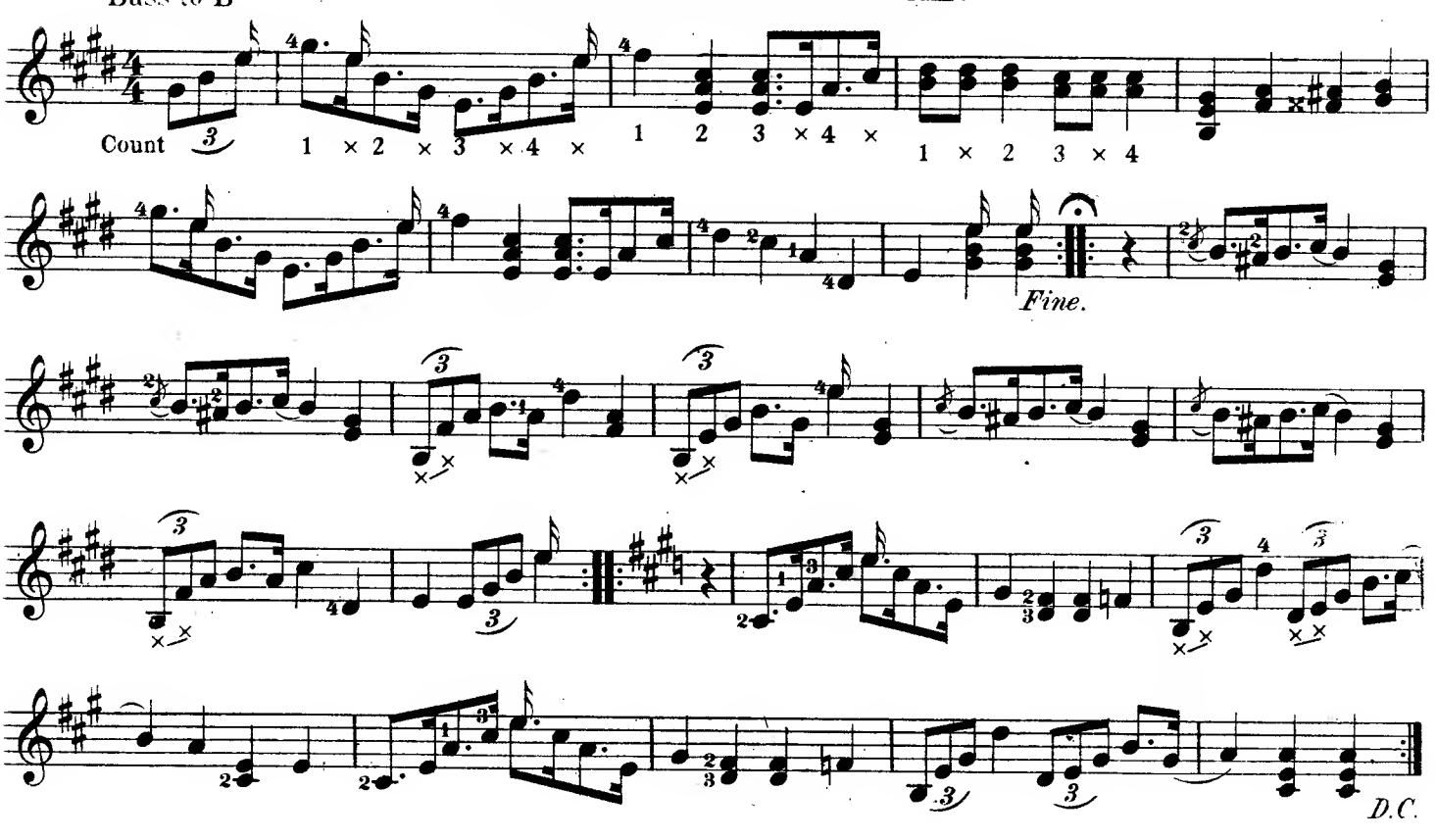


HOME SWEET HOME & VAR.

Easy Arrangement.

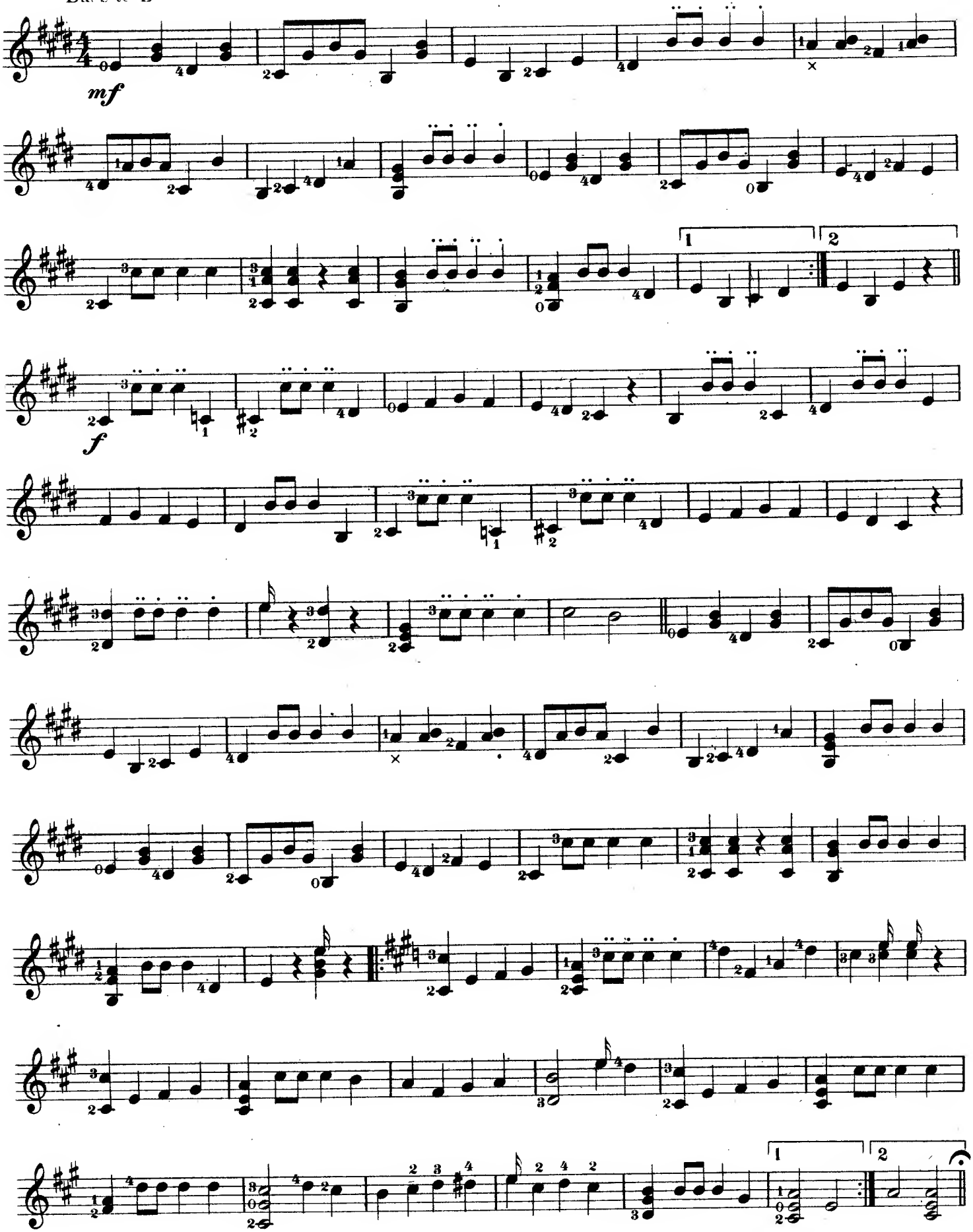


VERNON SCHOTTISCHE.



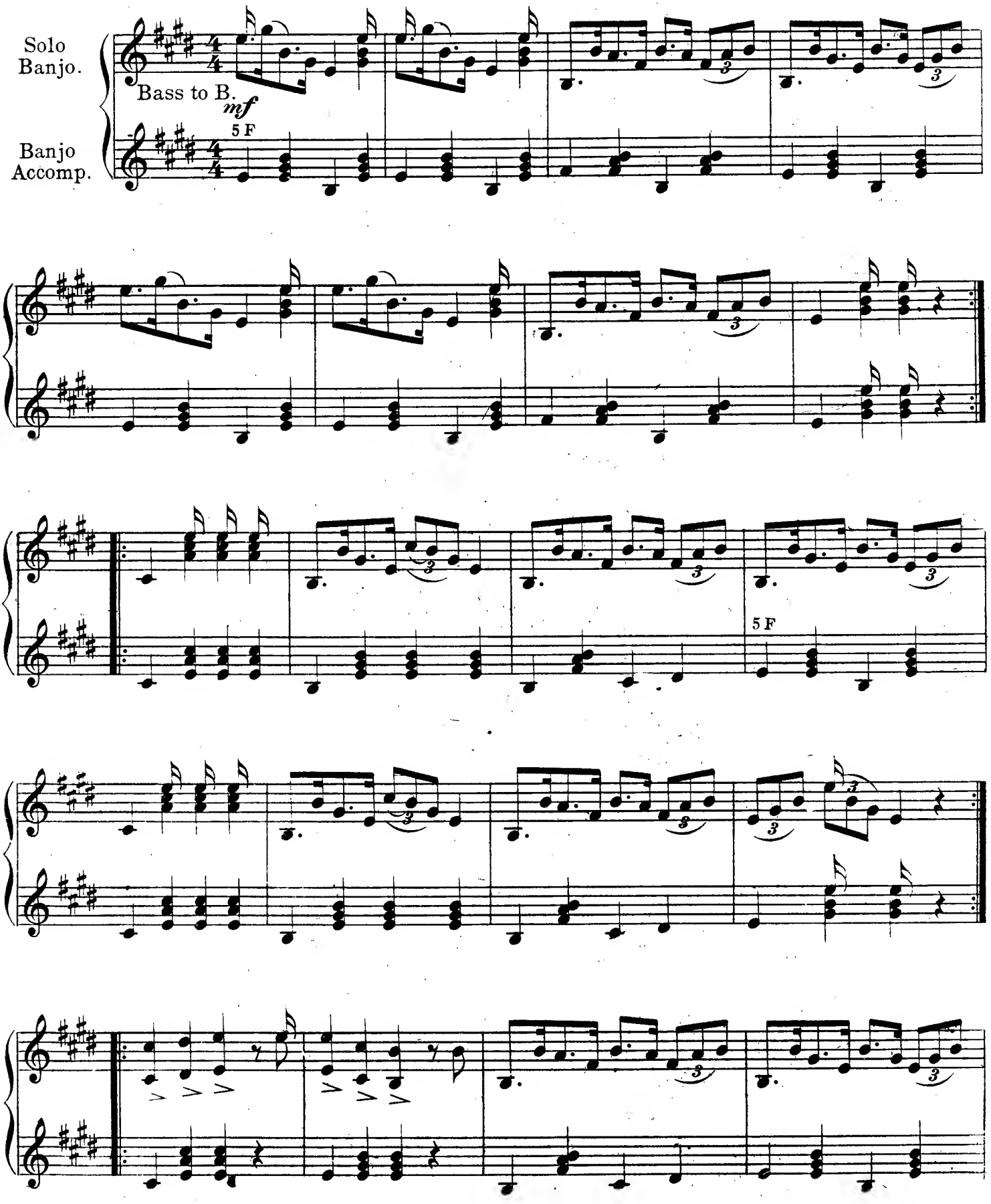
Lyceum Two Step.

Bass to B

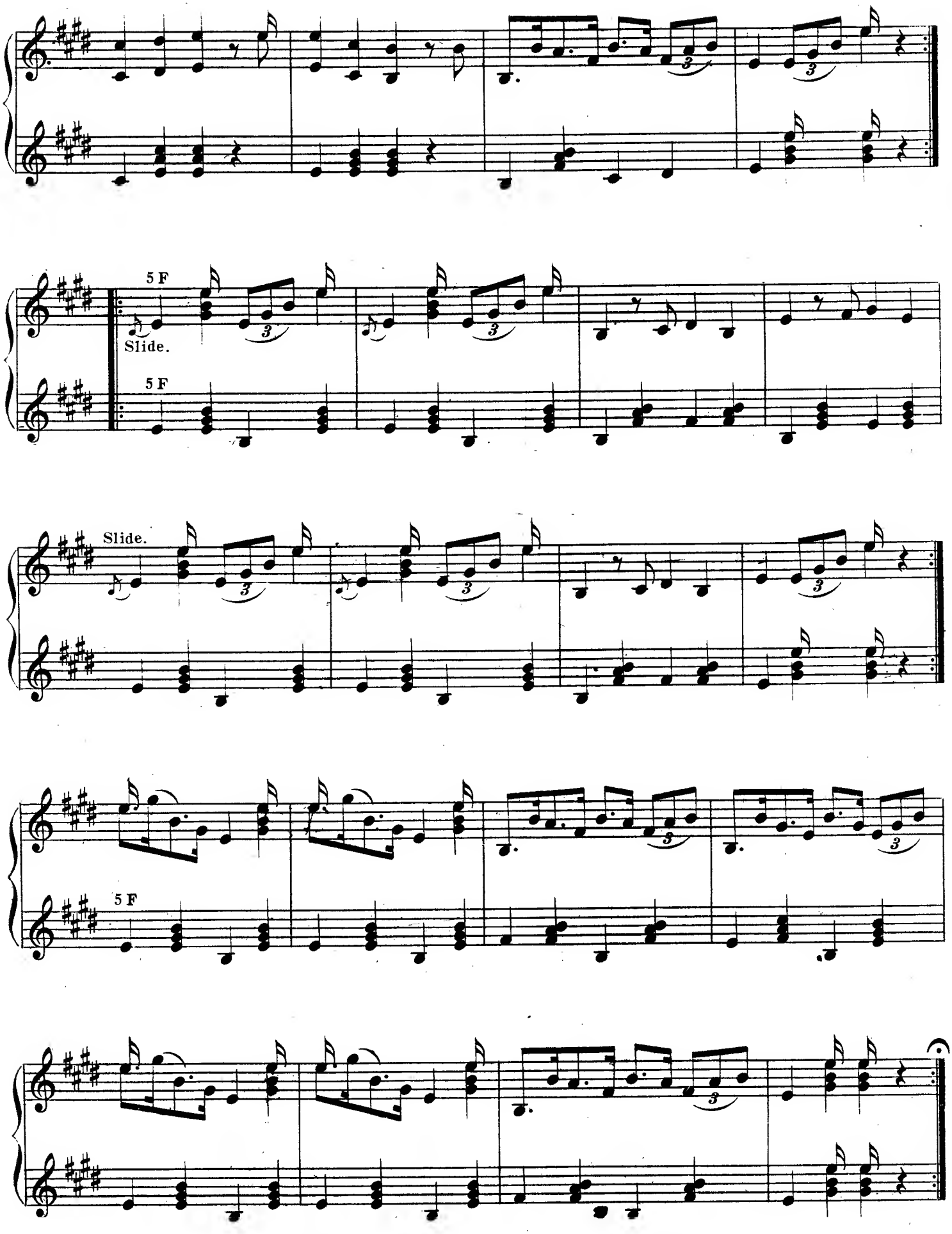


THE DARKIES SERENADE.

J. H. JENNINGS.



Copyright 1897 by J. H. Jennings.

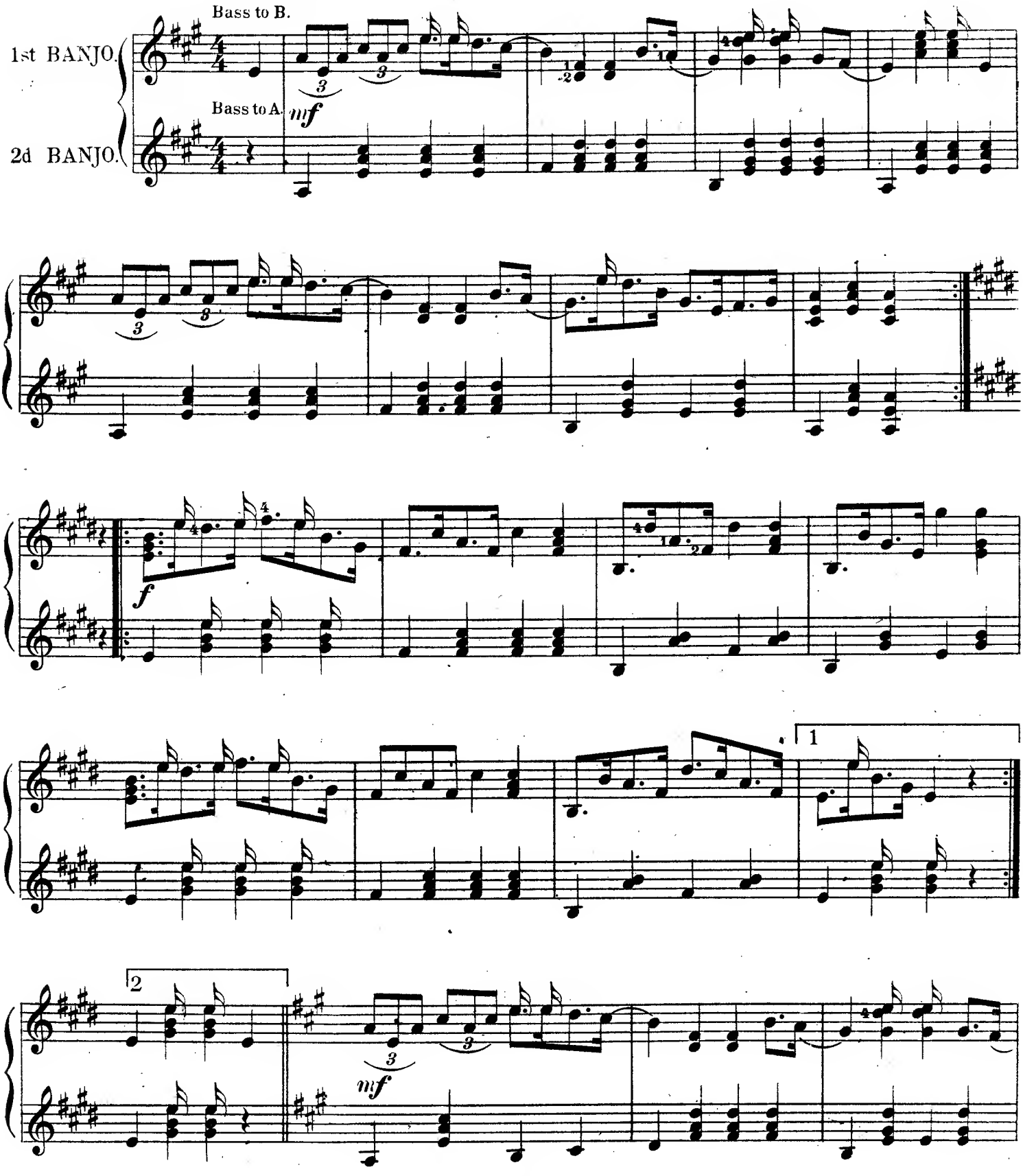

5 F
Slide.
5 F
Slide.
5 F

To Mr. C. H. Bartlett. Holly, N. Y.

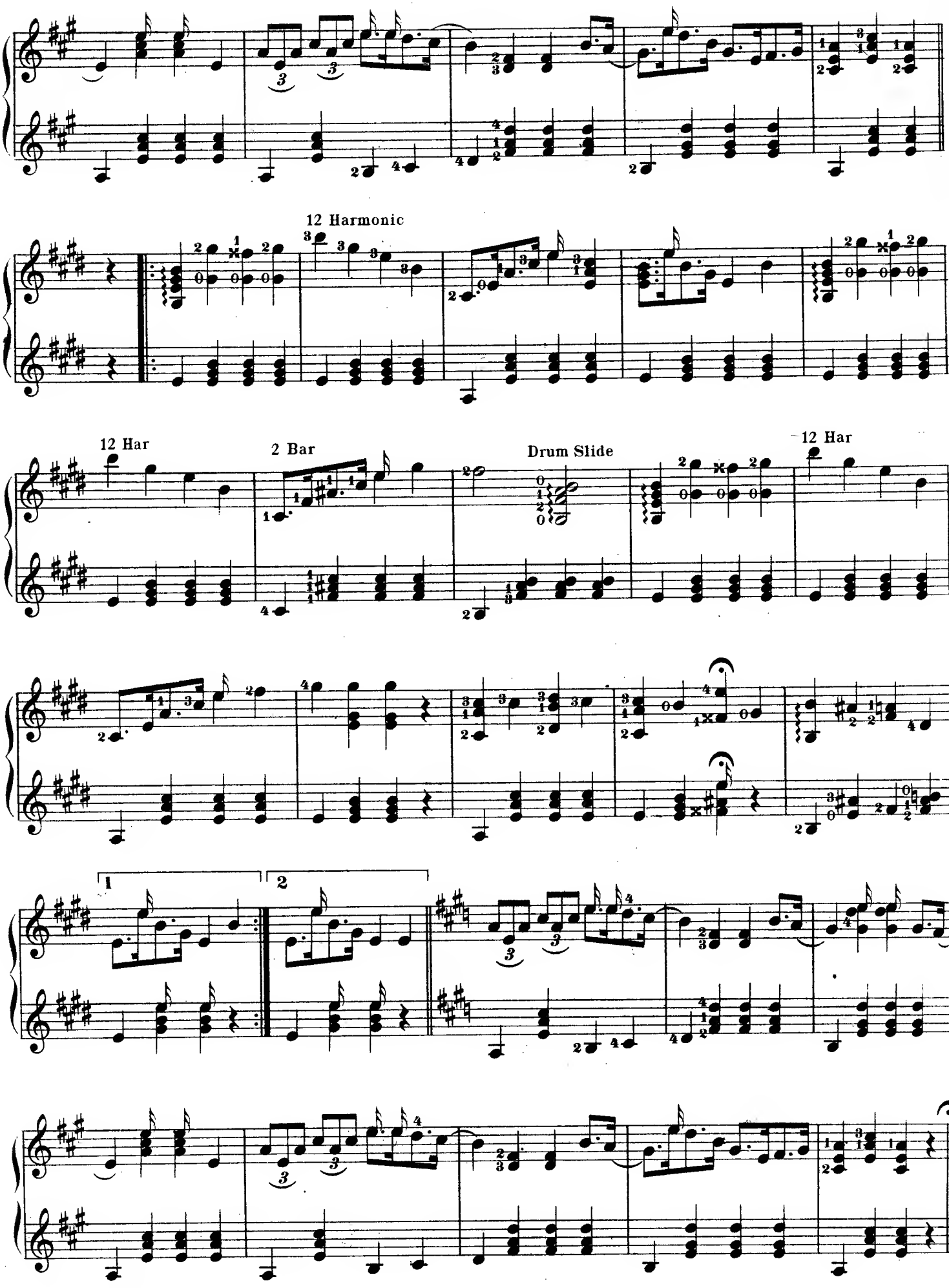
SILVER CROWN SCHOTTISCHE.

J. H. JENNINGS.

Moderato.



Copyright 1895 by J. H. Jennings.


12 Harmonic
12 Har
2 Bar
Drum Slide
12 Har
1
2

YOUNG SERENADERS.

MARCH.

J. H. JENNINGS.

Bass to B.

Moderato.

Solo Banjo.

Bass to B.

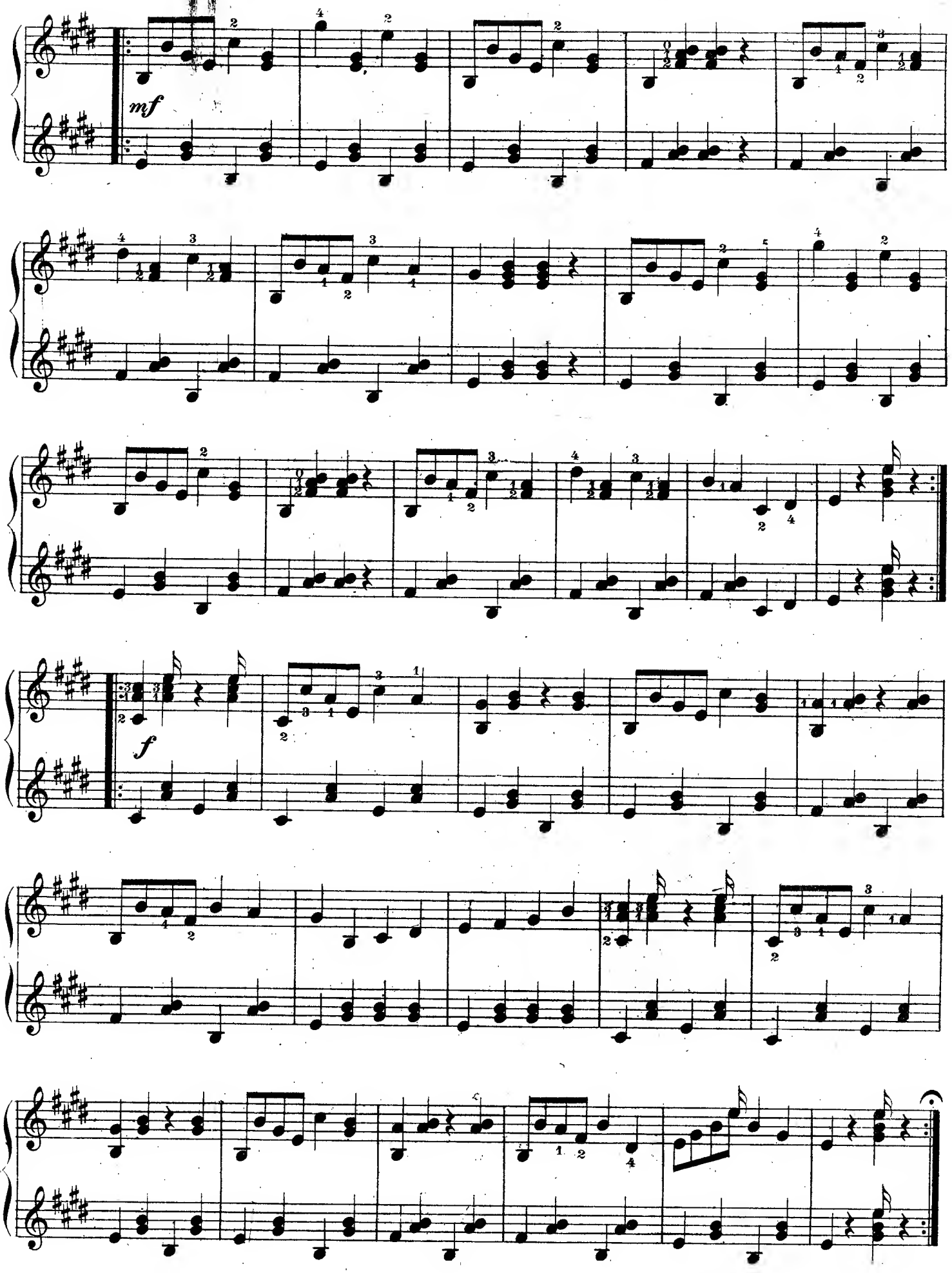
Acc. Banjo.

2 Bar. - - - -

2 Bar. - - - -

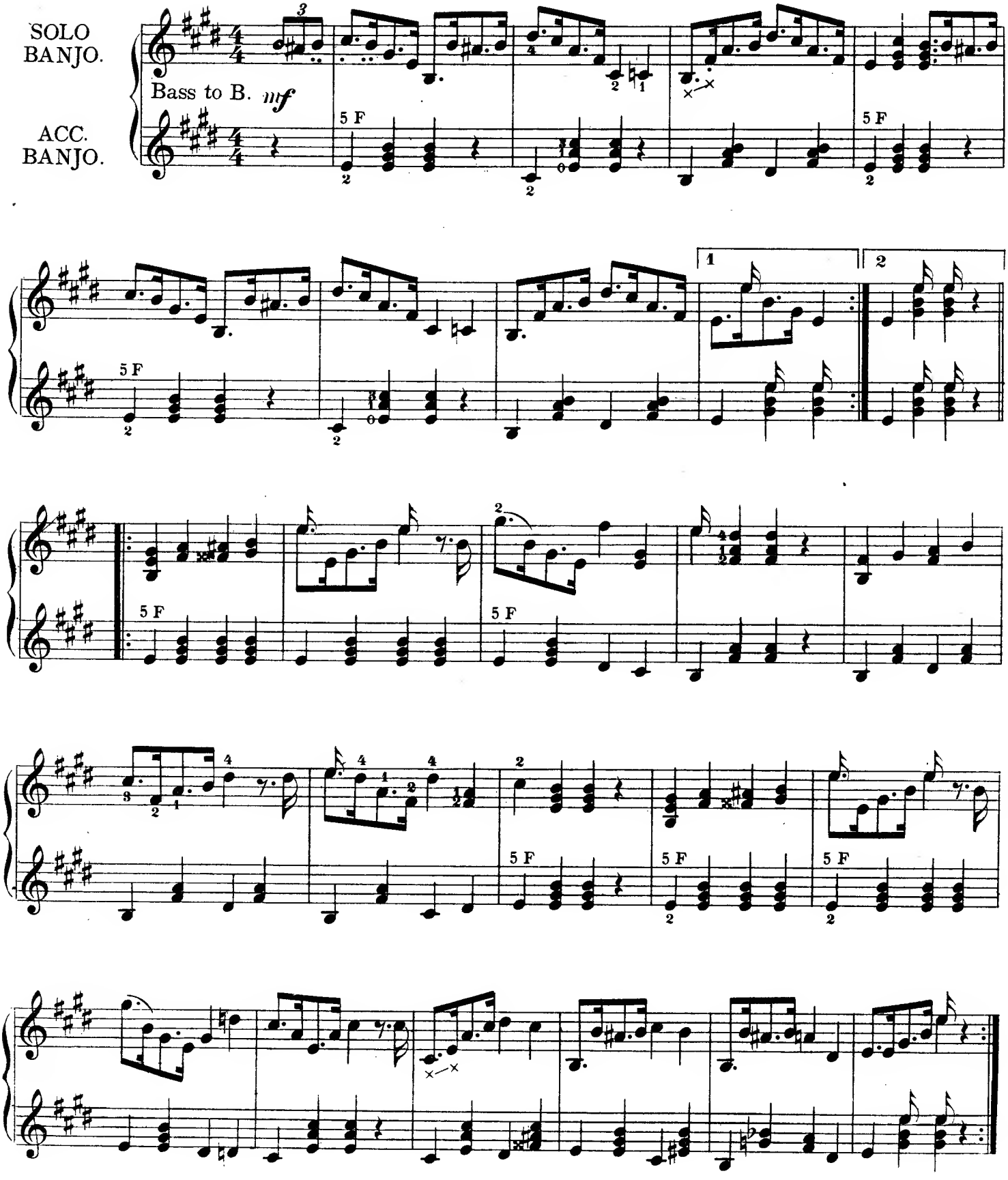
2*

Copyright 1900 by J. H. Jennings.

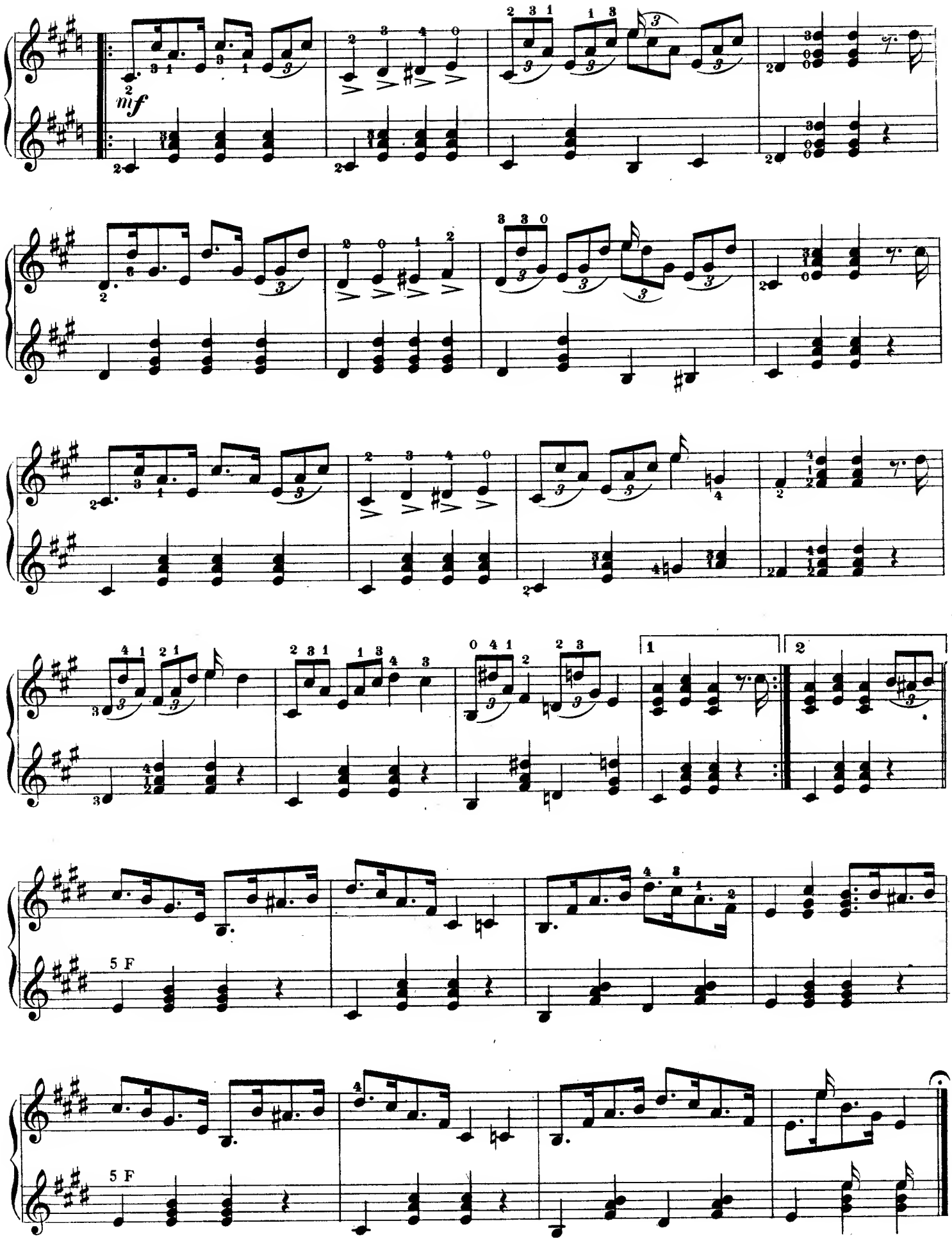

mf
f

Song and Dance Melody.

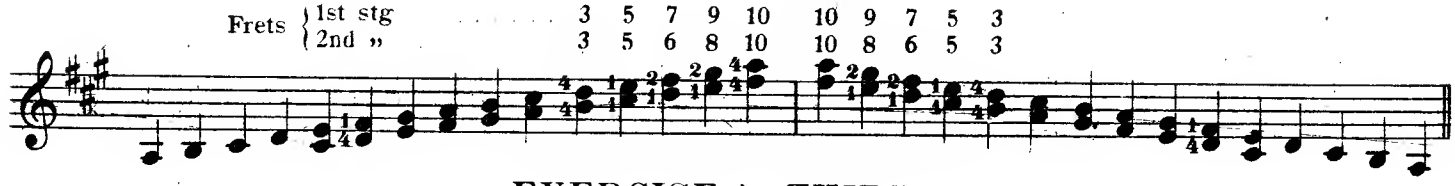
Arr. by J. H. JENNINGS



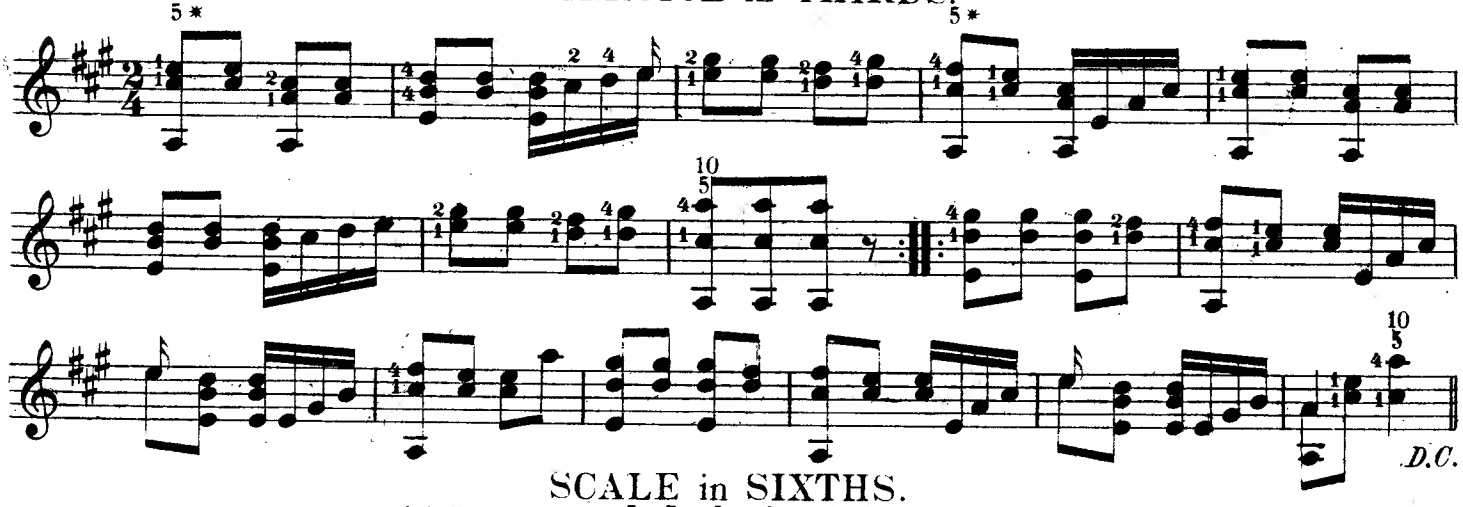
Copyright 1899 by J. H. Jennings


mf
1
2
5 F
5 F

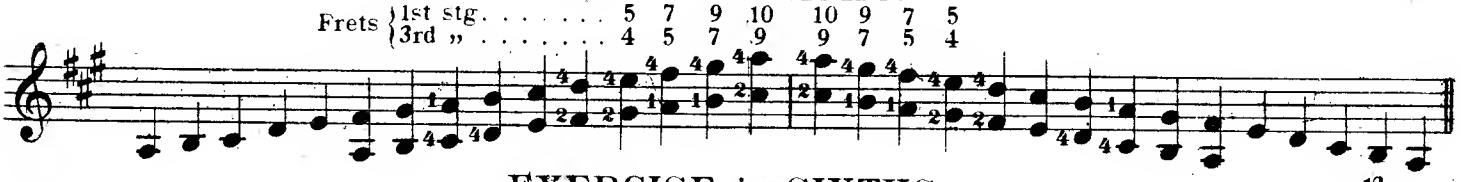
SCALE in THIRDS.



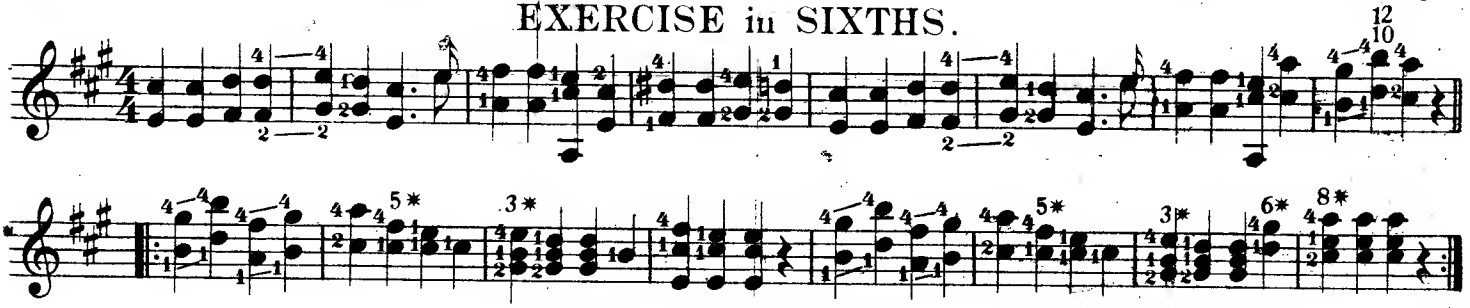
EXERCISE in THIRDS.



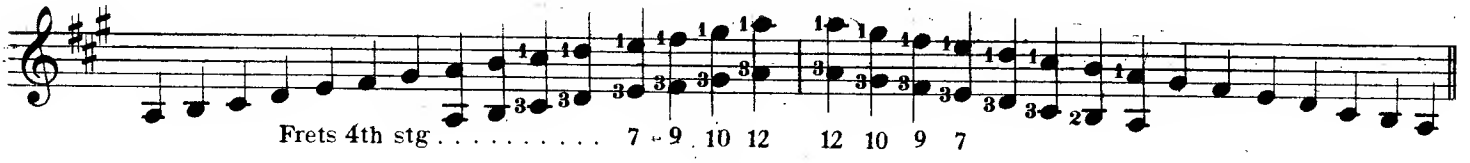
SCALE in SIXTHS.



EXERCISE in SIXTHS.



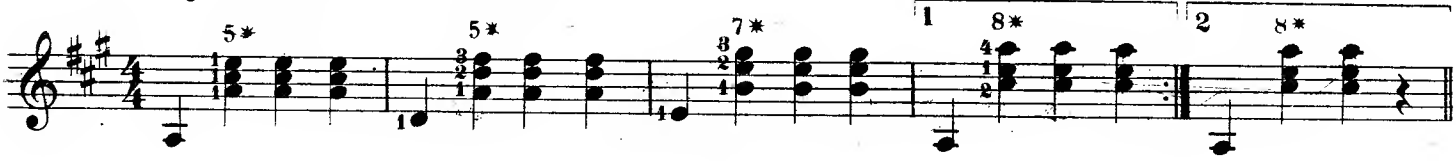
SCALE in OCTAVES.



POSITIONS.

The Fret on which the 1st finger is placed determines the Position, viz: 1st finger at 1st fret is called 1st position etc. * a star or asterisk means Position.

A major Chords in Positions.



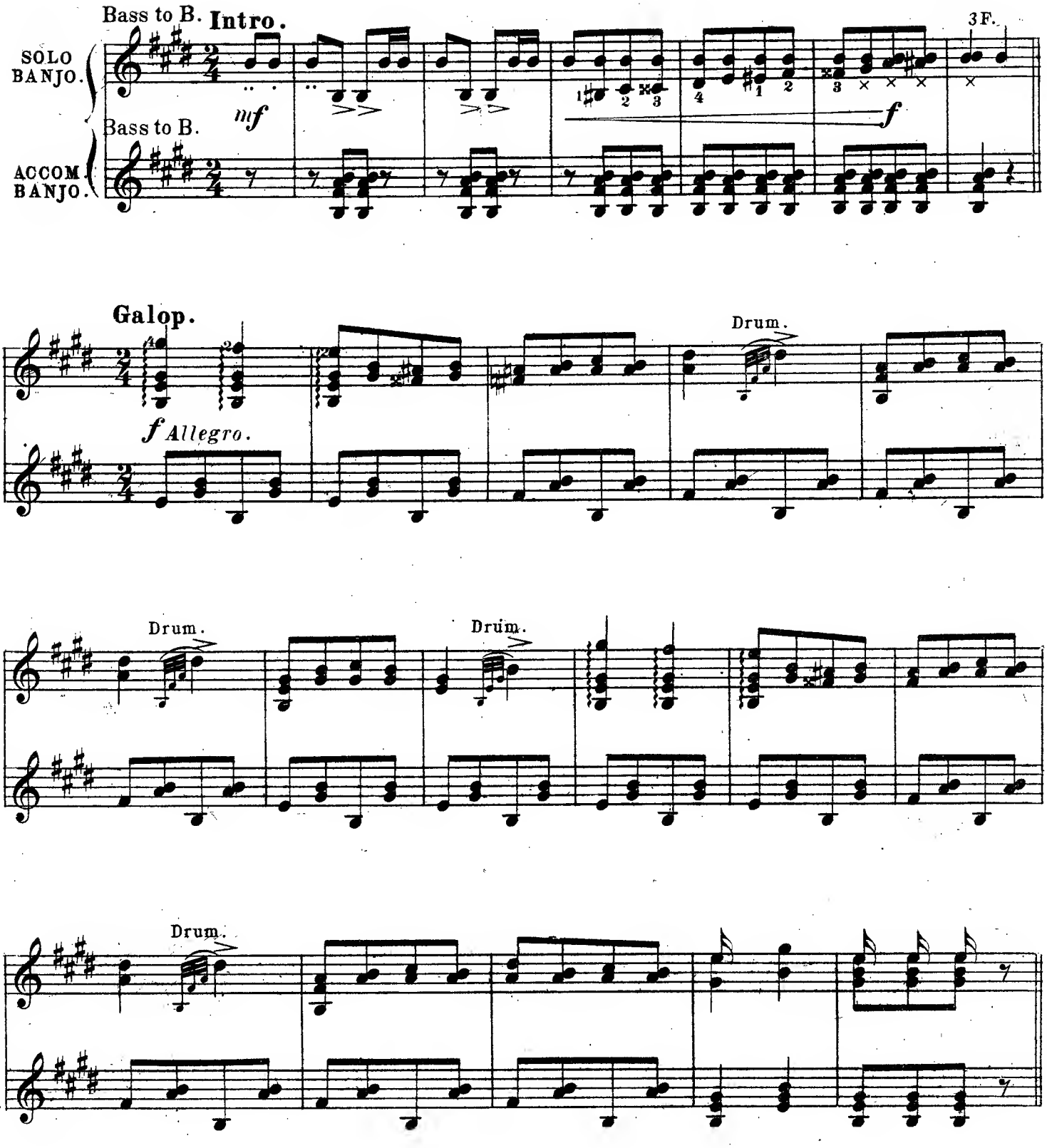
THE DRUM SLIDE.

When the letters D.S. or Drum Slide are placed above a chord it means to play with the nails of the right fingers, commence with 4th or little finger and let all the fingers pass over the chord in rapid succession.

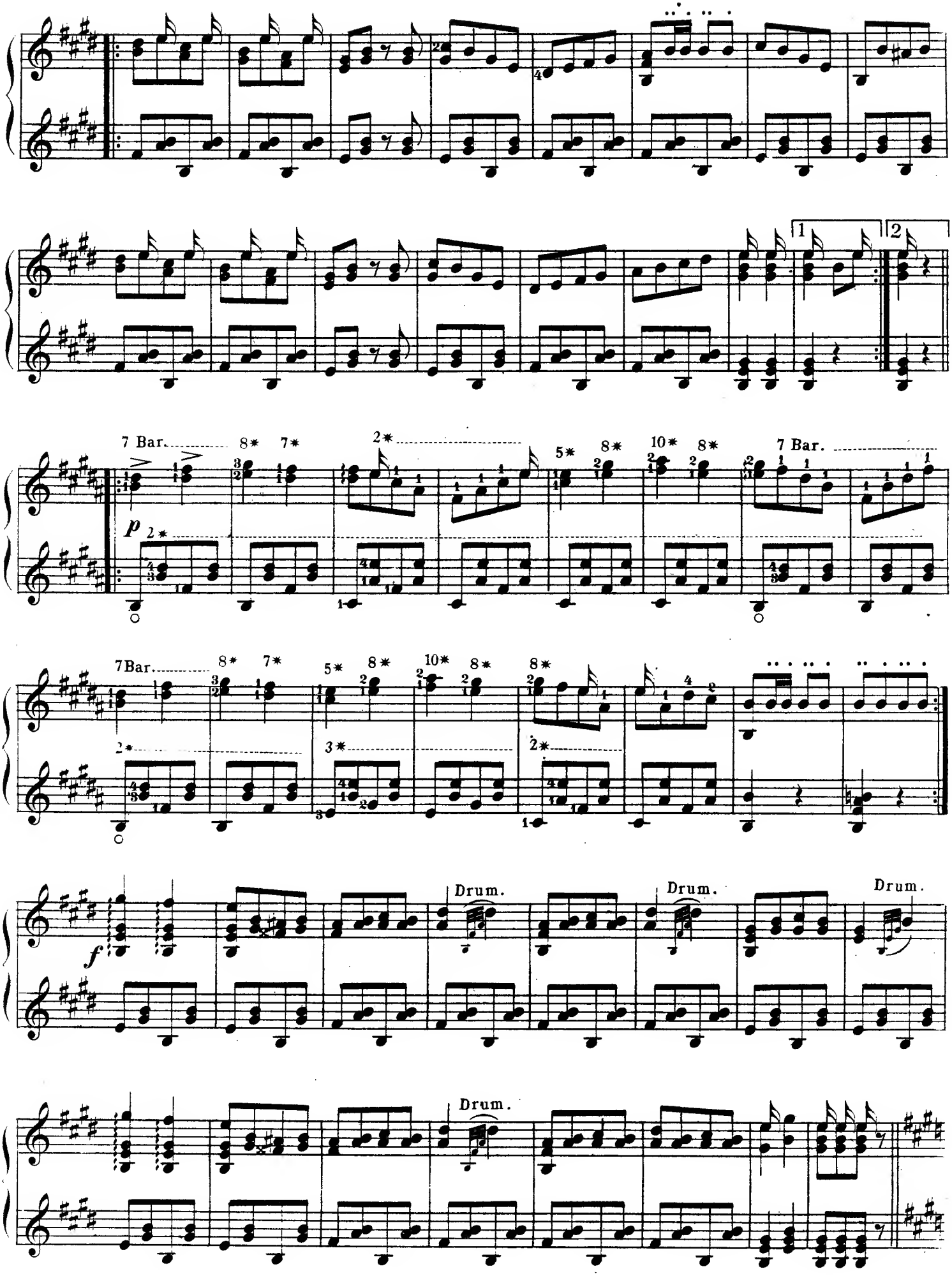
NIAGARA RAPIDS.

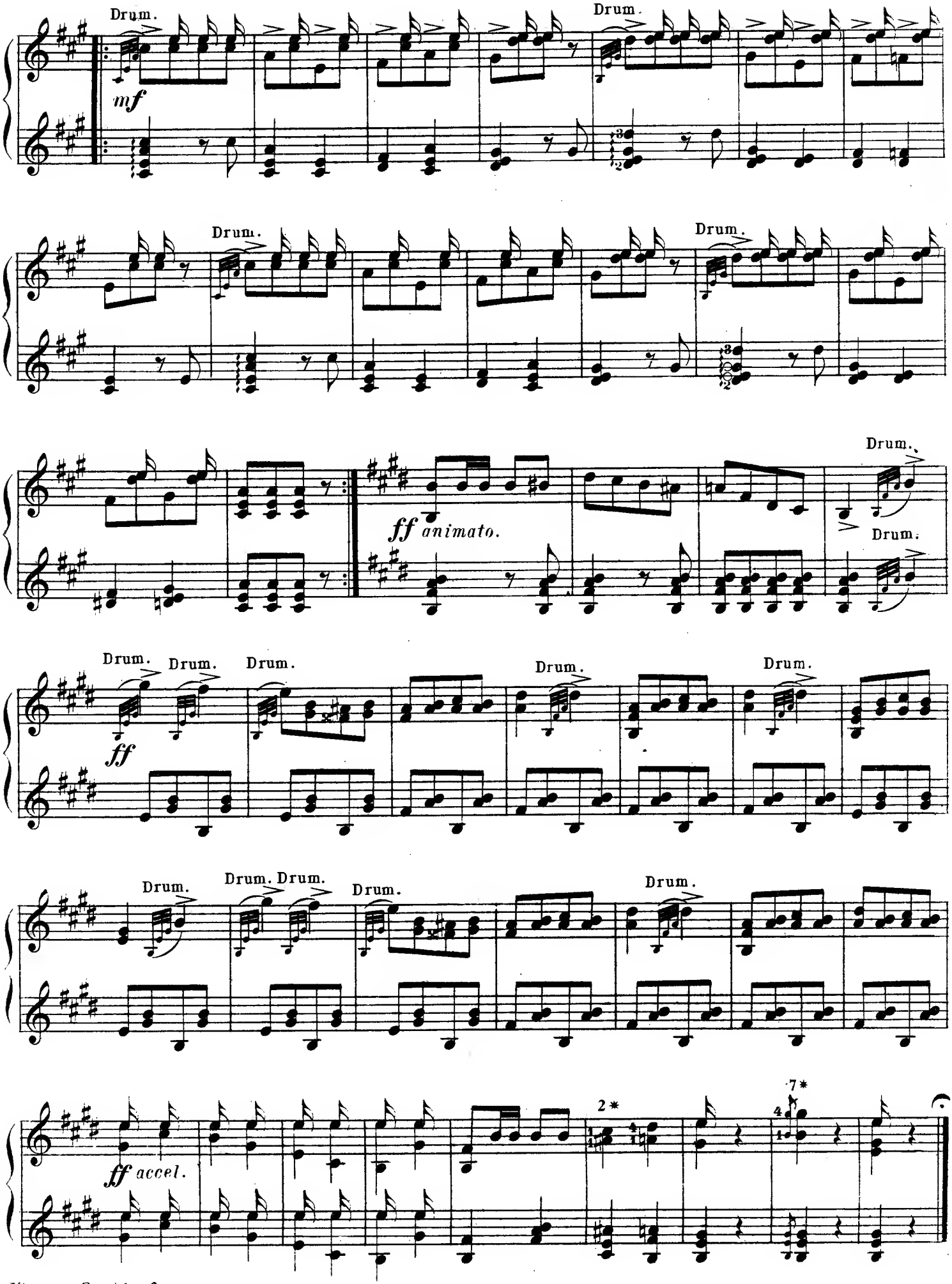
GALOP

J. H. Jennings.



Copyright 1894 by J. H. Jennings.

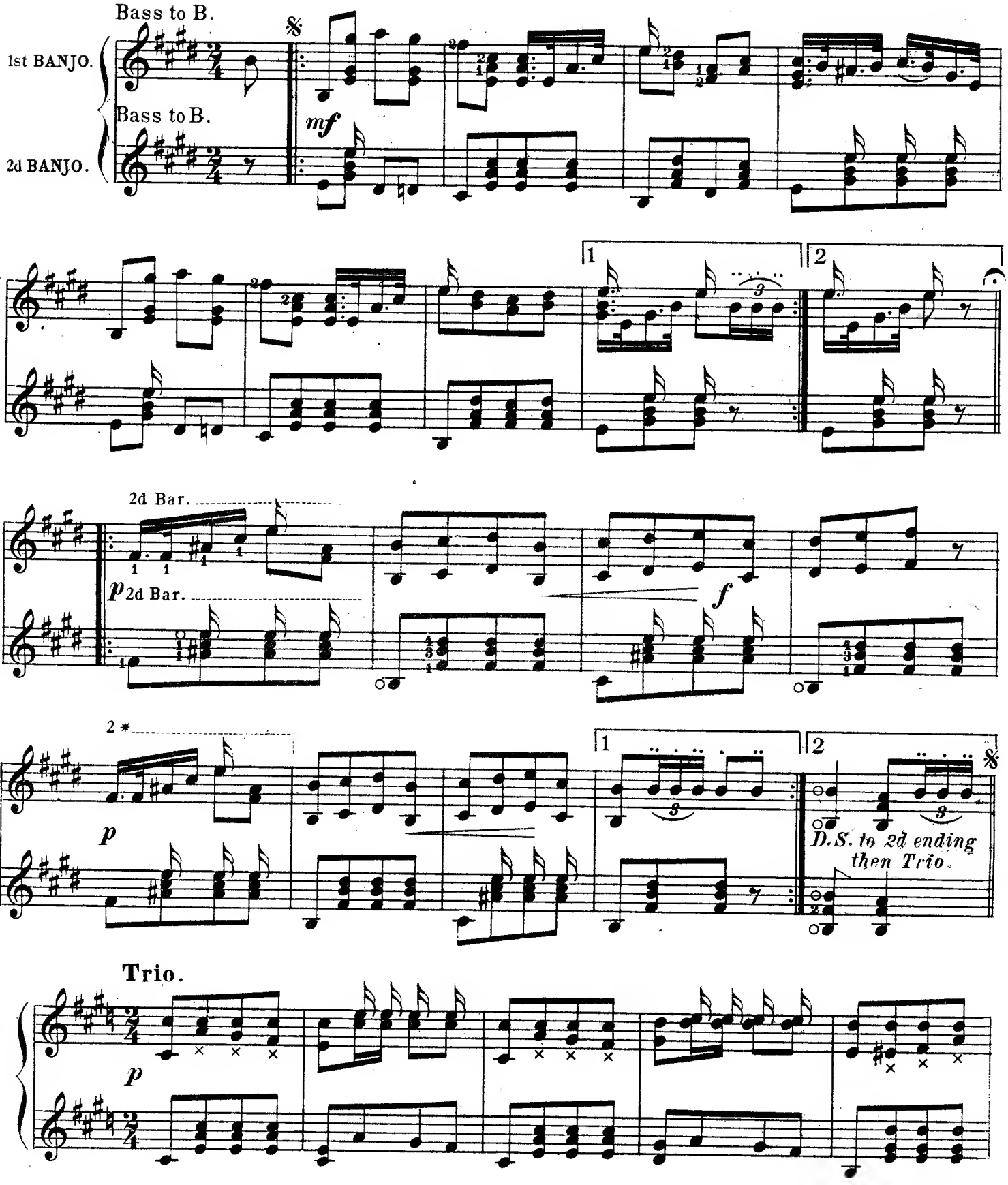

1
2
7 Bar.
8*
7*
2*
5*
8*
10*
8*
7 Bar.
p
7Bar.
8*
7*
5*
8*
10*
8*
8*
2*
3*
2*
f
Drum.
Drum.
Drum.
Drum.


Drum.
Drum.
mf
Drum.
Drum.
ff animato.
Drum.
Drum.
Drum.
Drum.
Drum.
ff
Drum.
Drum.
Drum.
Drum.
Drum.
Drum.
Drum.
2*
7*
4
ff accel.

To Miss Hope Gower Tacoma, Wash.

GOLDEN BELL POLKA.

J. H. Jennings.



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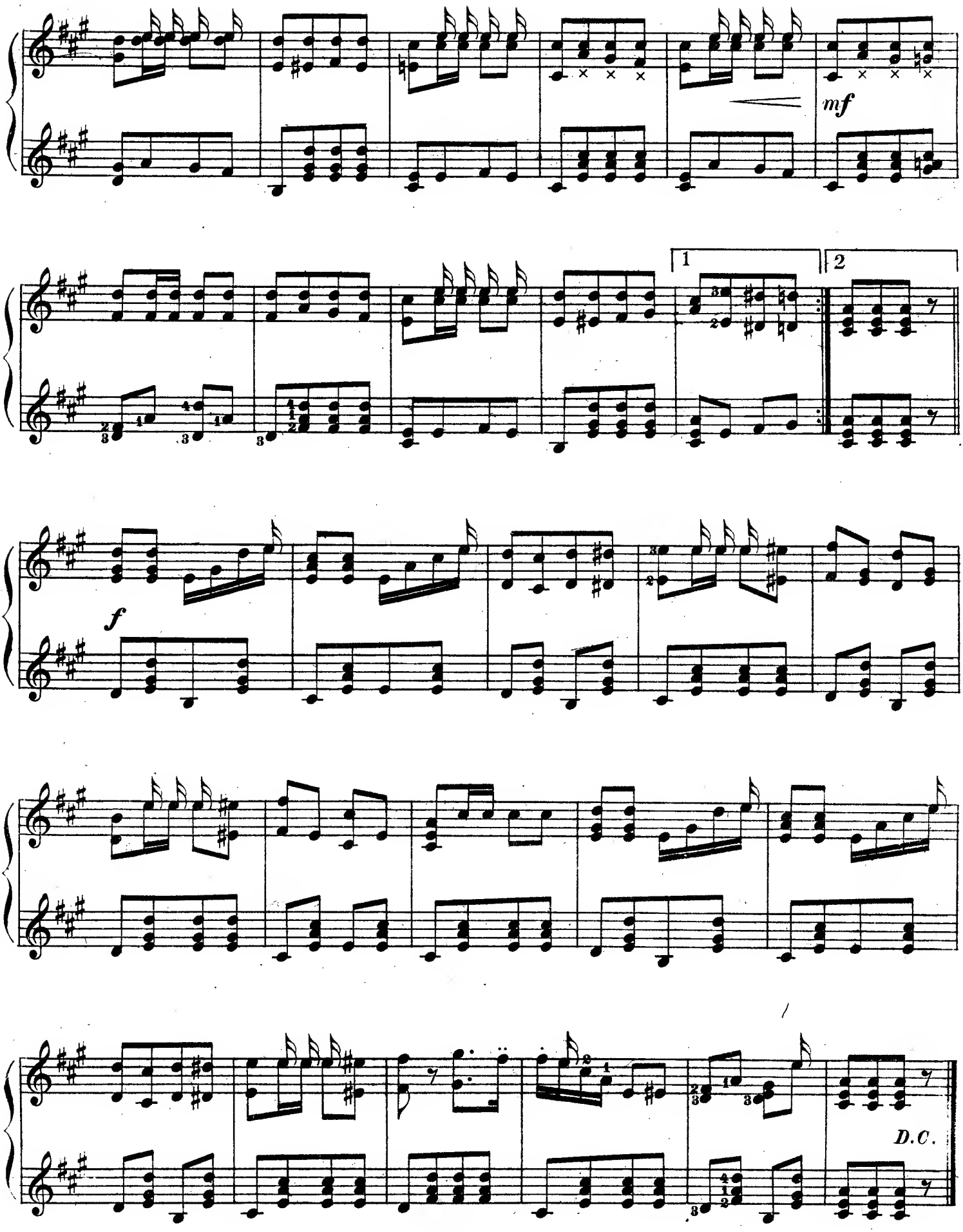
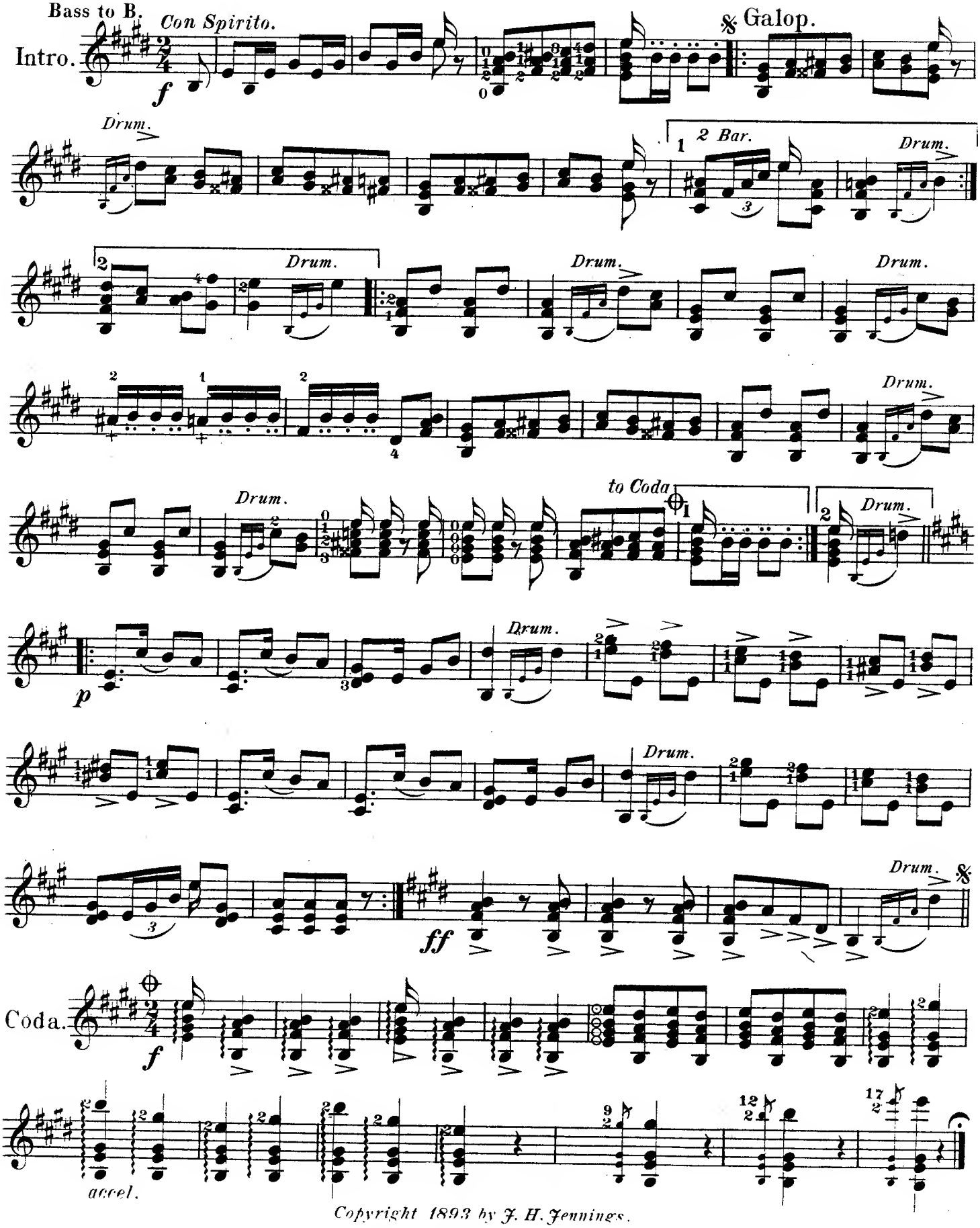

mf
1
2
f
D.C.

THE CELEBRATED

NEWPORT GALOP.

A Brilliant Selection for the Banjo.

J. H. JENNINGS.



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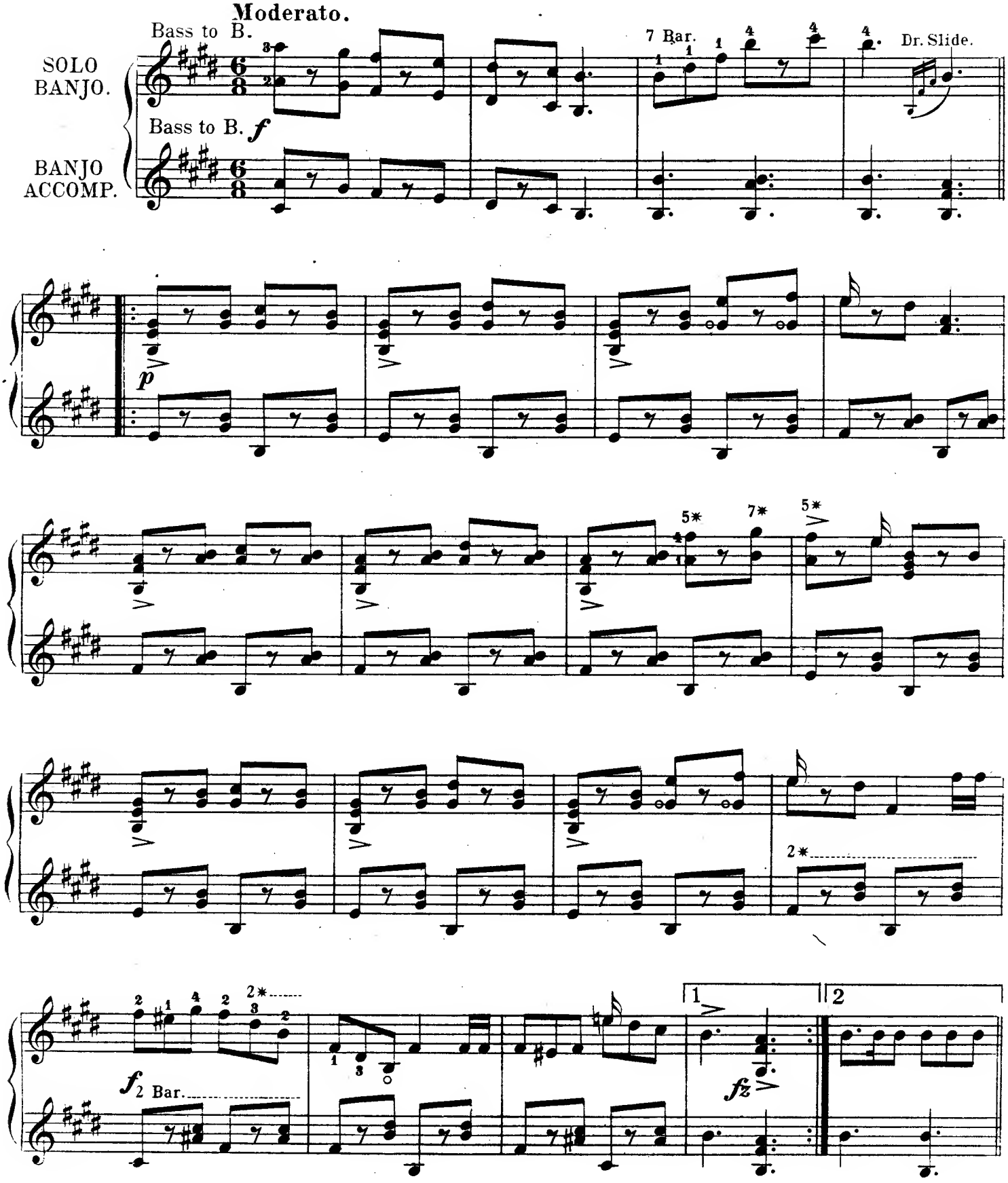
Narragansett Pier Two Step.

J. H. Jennings



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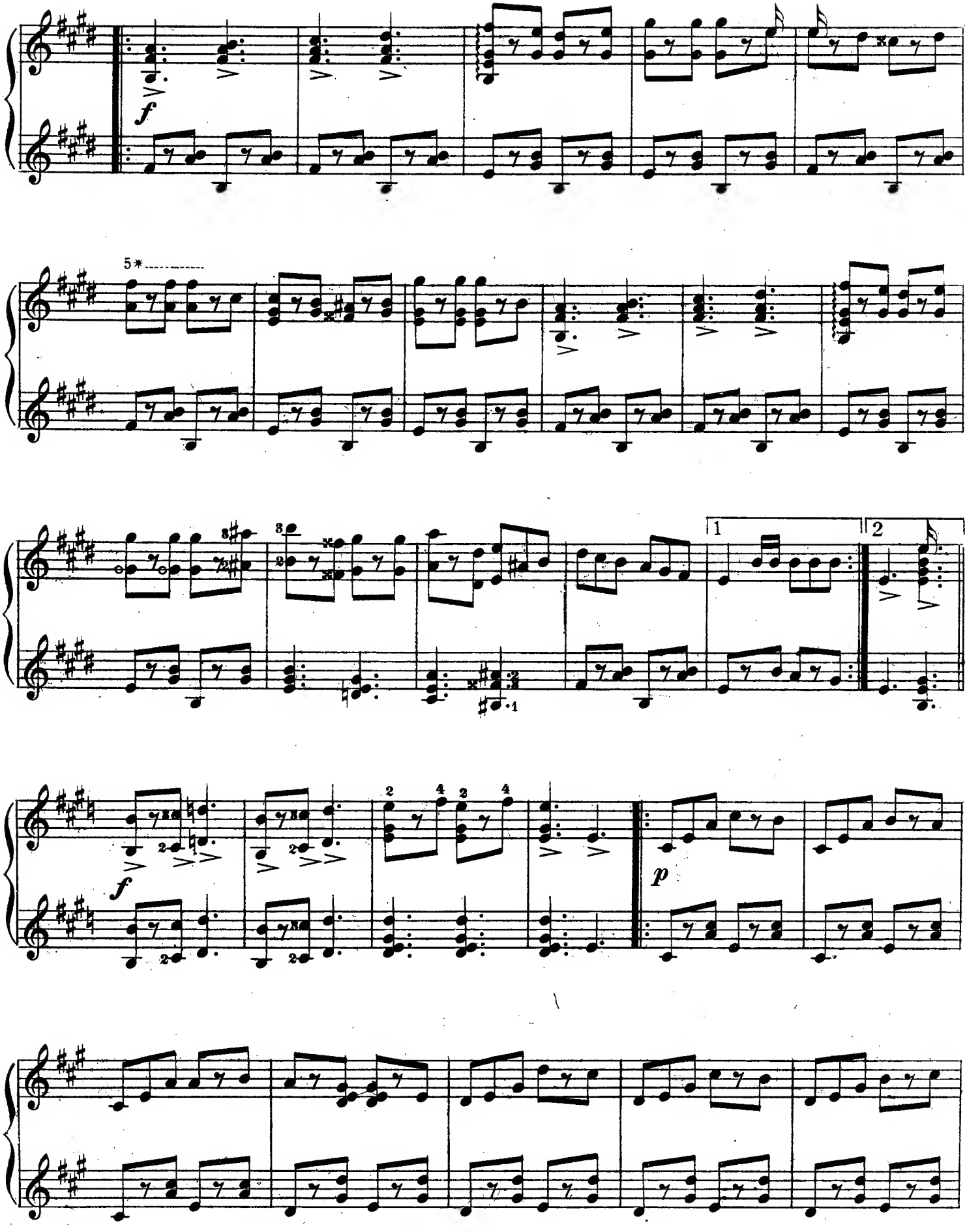
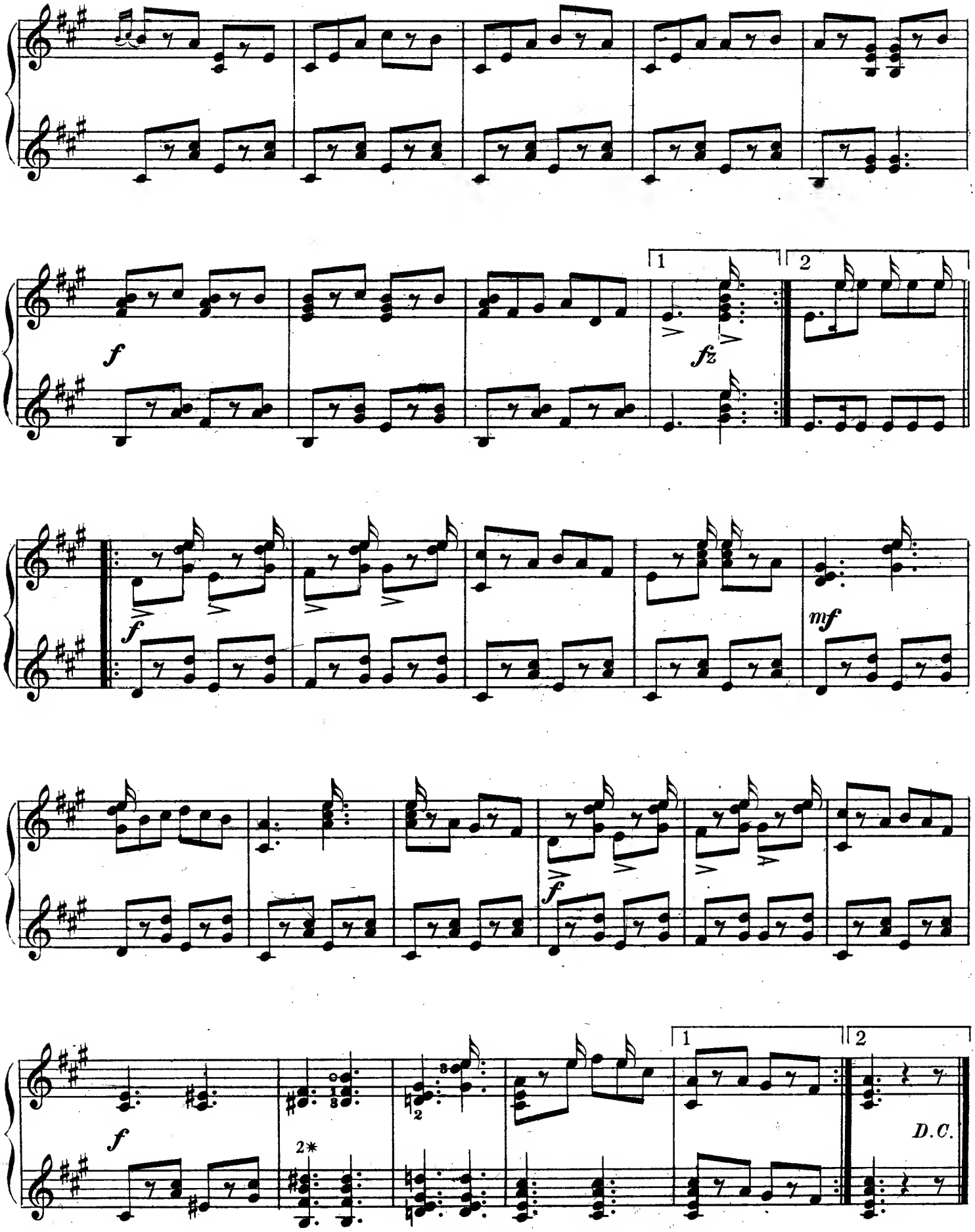
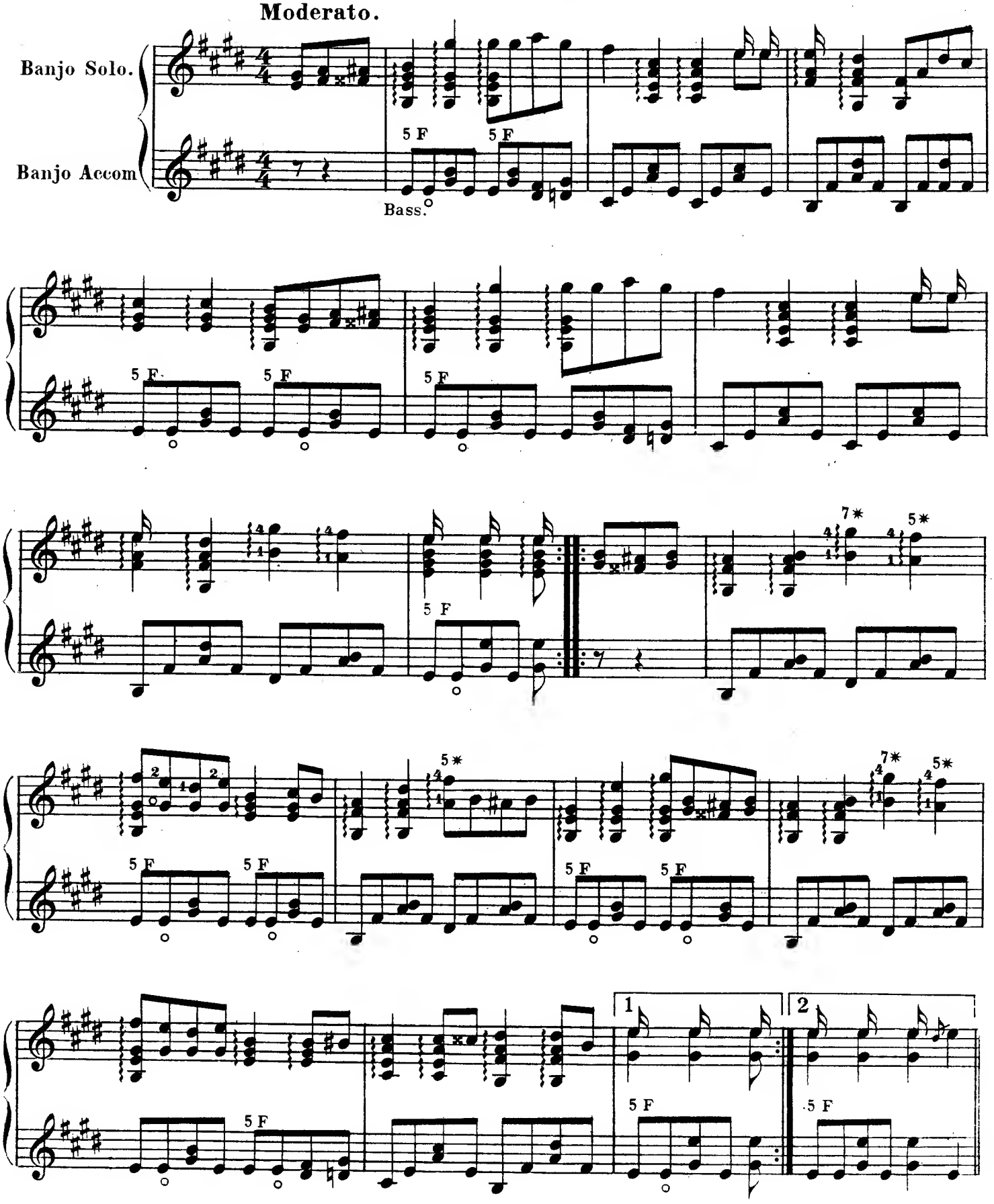

f
5*
1
2
f
p


f
1
2
fz
f
mf
f
1
2
2*
D.C.

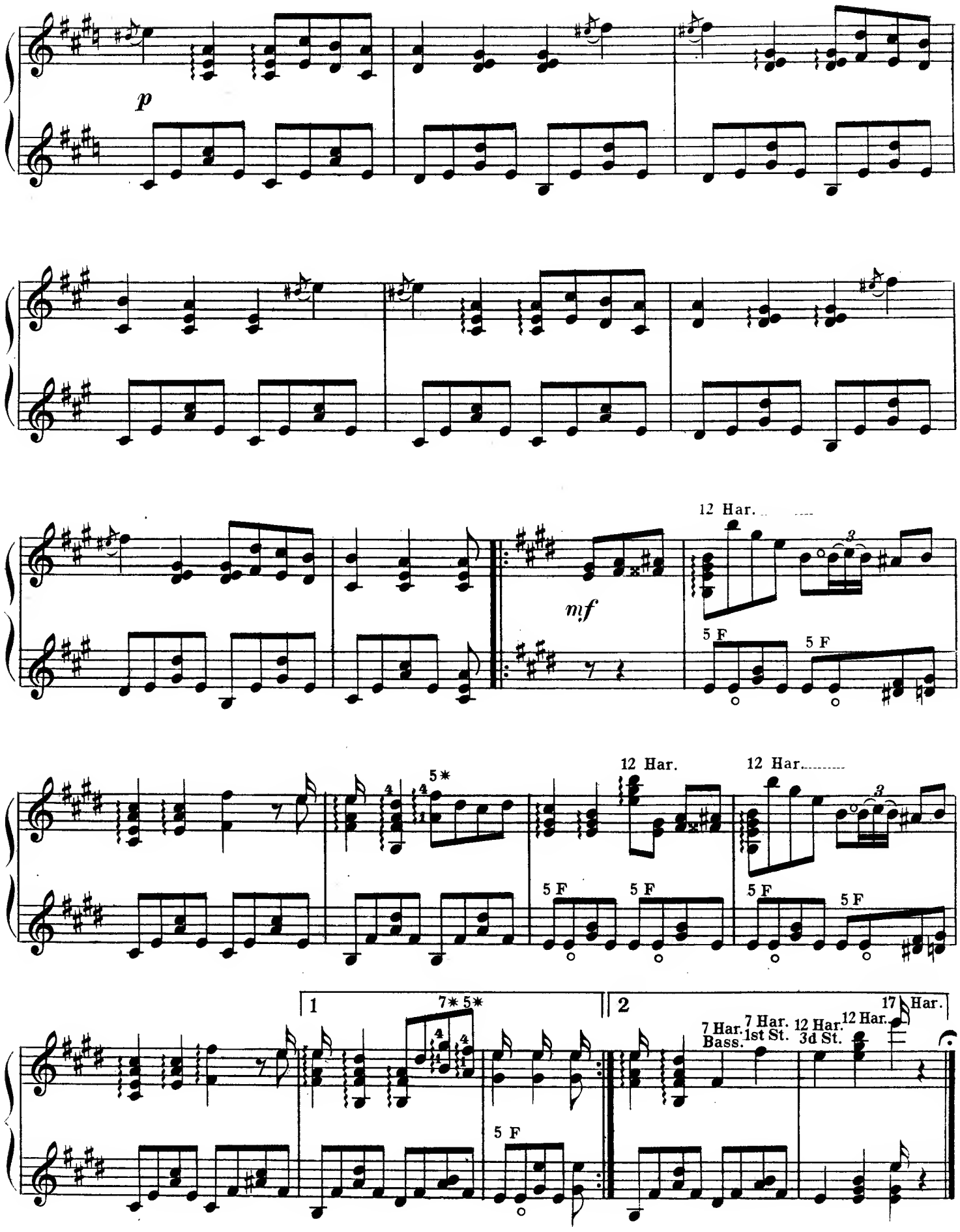
GENEVEIVE GAVOTTE.

J. H. Jennings.

Moderato.



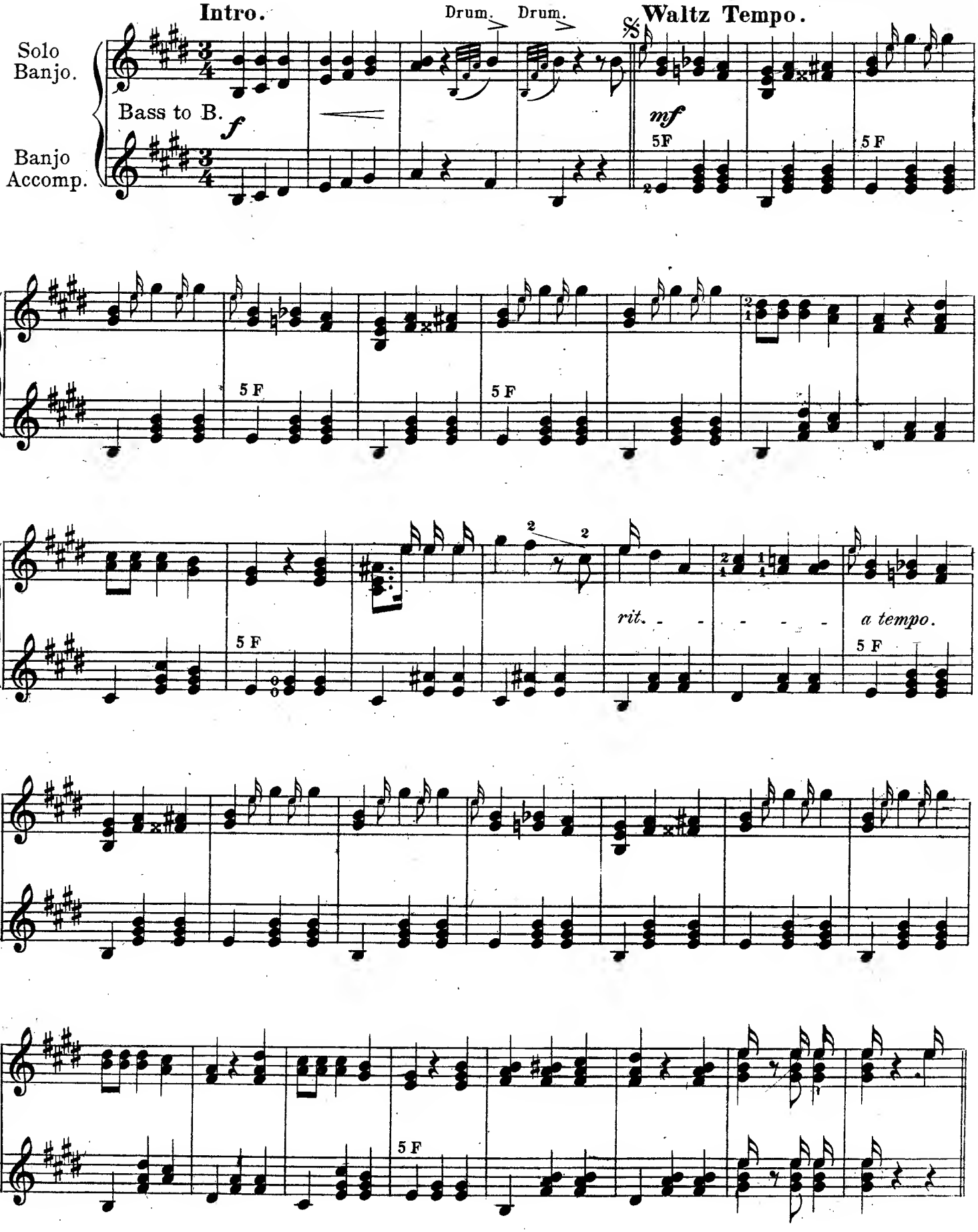
Copyright 1897 by J. H. Jennings.


p
mf
12 Har.
5 F
5 F
12 Har.
12 Har.
5*
5 F
5 F
5 F
5 F
1
7* 5*
5 F
2
7 Har. Bass.
7 Har. 1st St.
12 Har. 3d St.
12 Har.
17 Har.

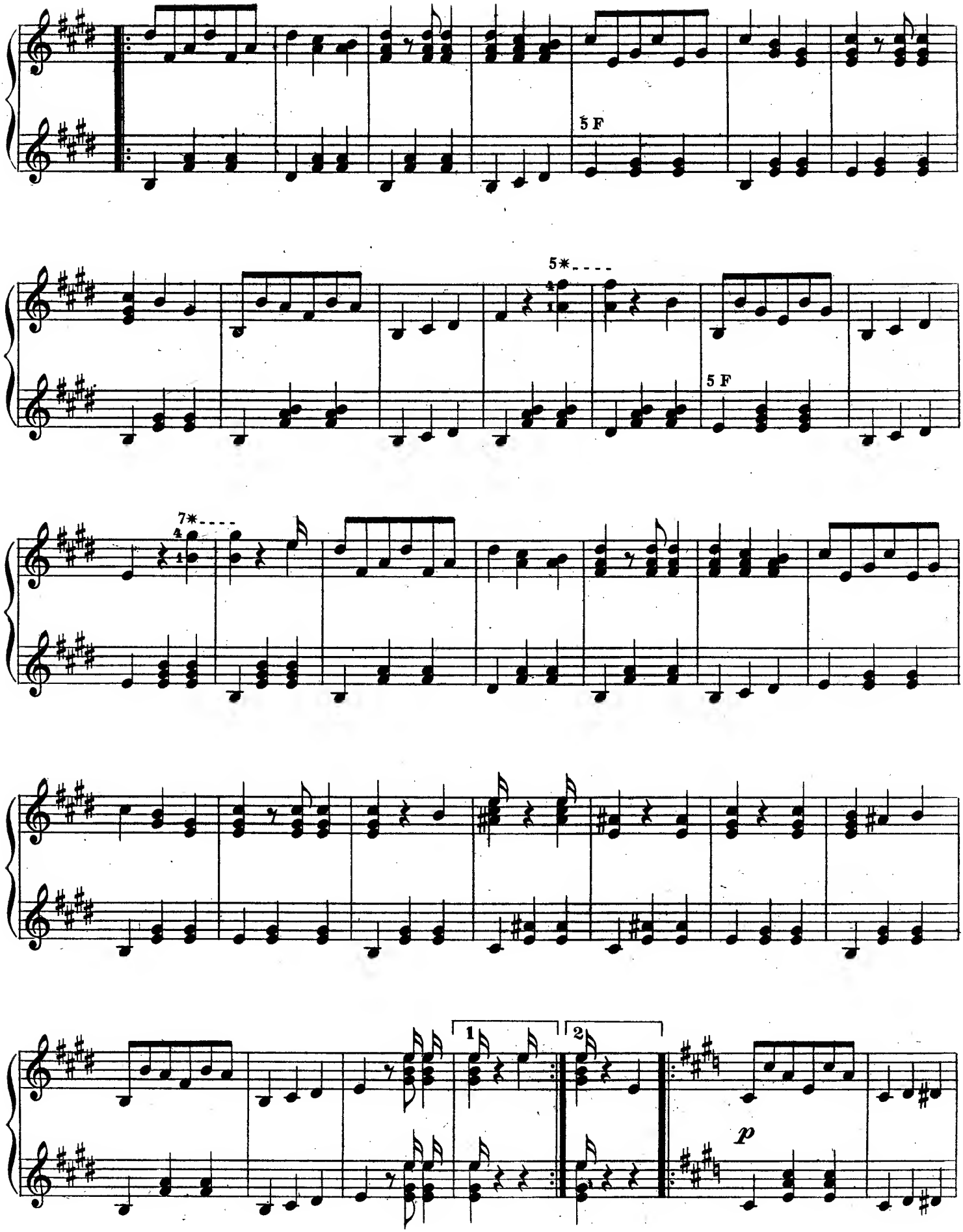
To "The Stannard Ladies B. G. & M. Club" Trenton N.J.

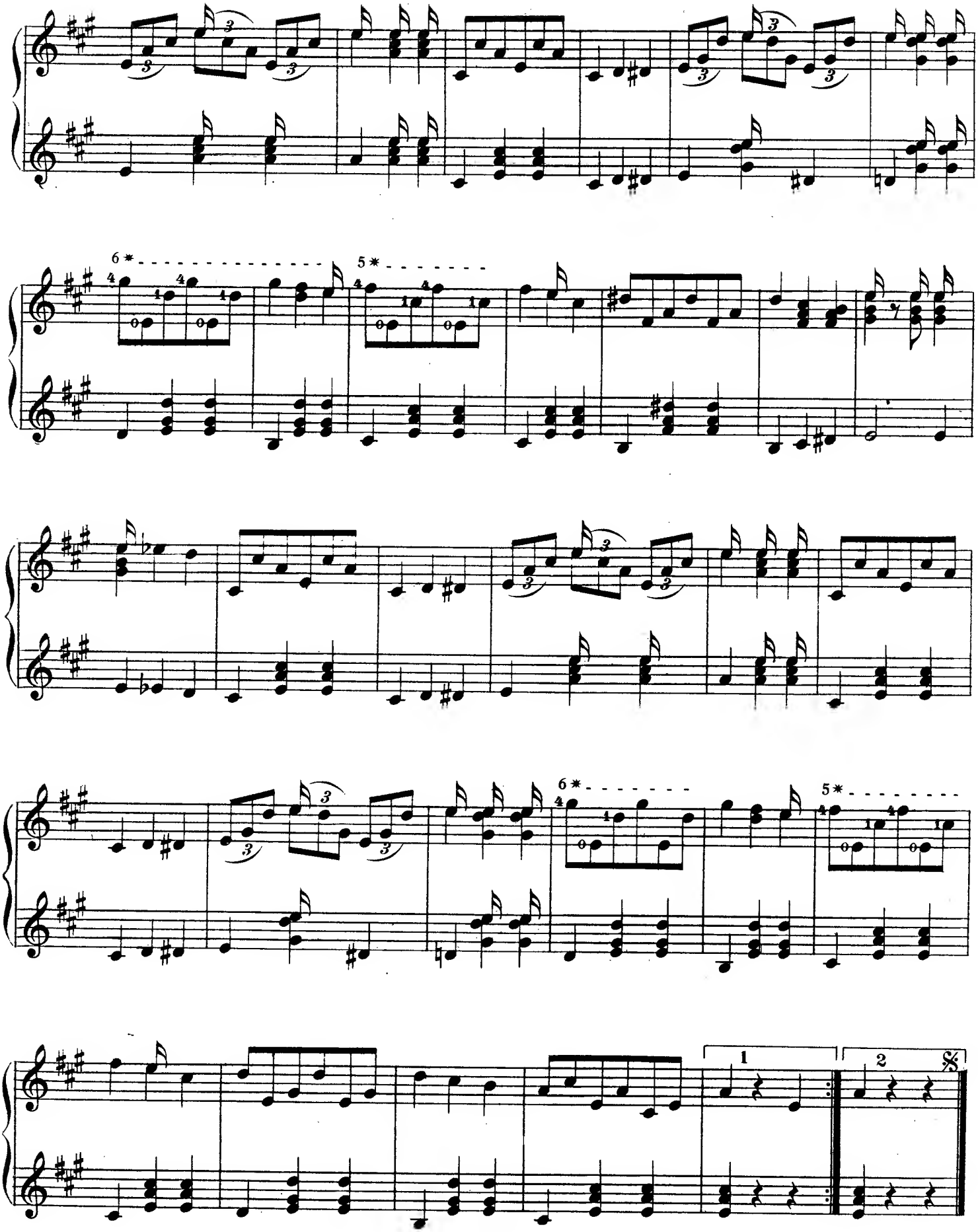
The Garden Party - Waltz.

J. H. JENNINGS.



Copyright 1897 by J. H. Jennings.

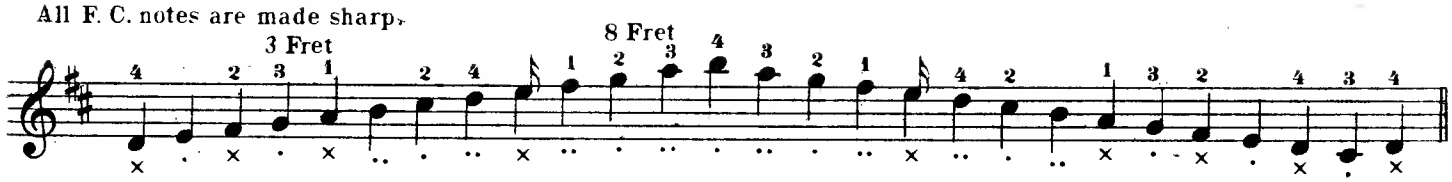

5 F
5*
5 F
7*
1
2
p


6 *
5 *
6 *
5 *
1
2
%

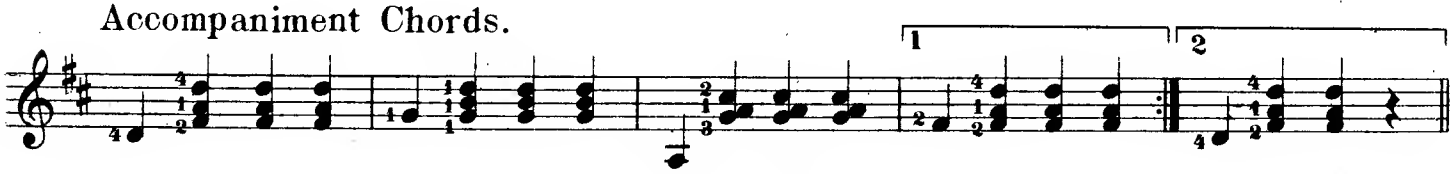
SCALE of D major.

All F. C. notes are made sharp.

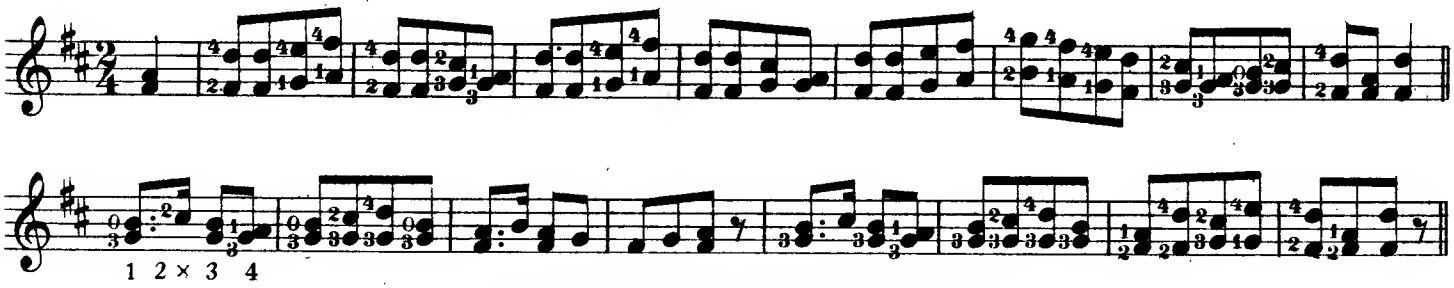
3 Fret 8 Fret



Accompaniment Chords.



MELODY.

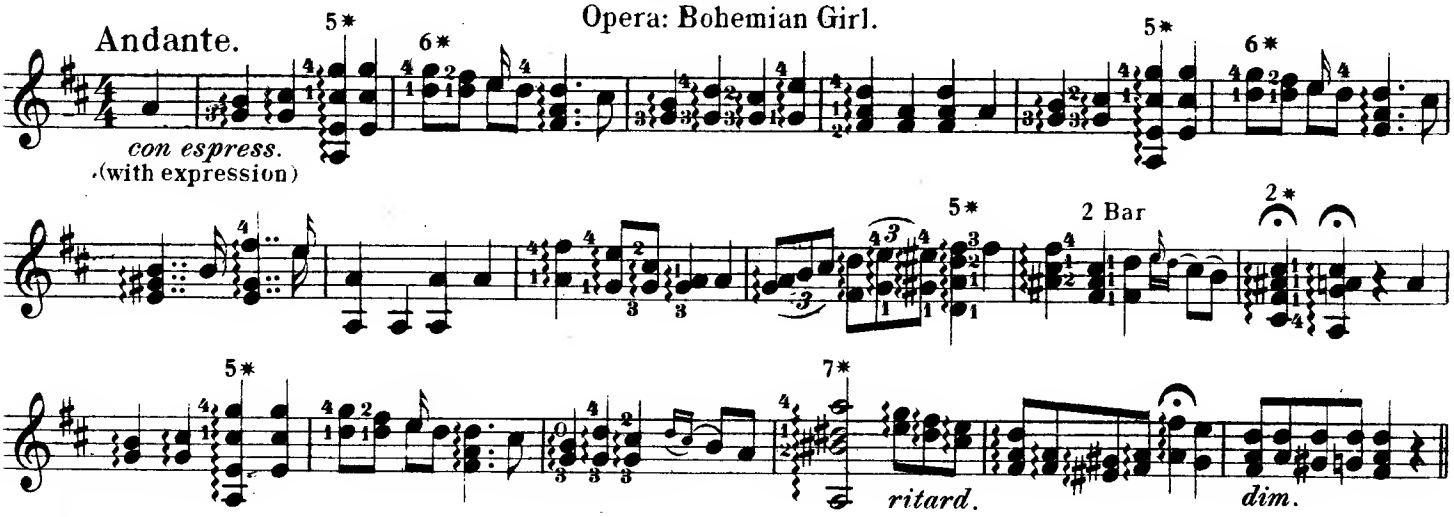


YOU'LL REMEMBER ME.

Opera: Bohemian Girl.

Andante.

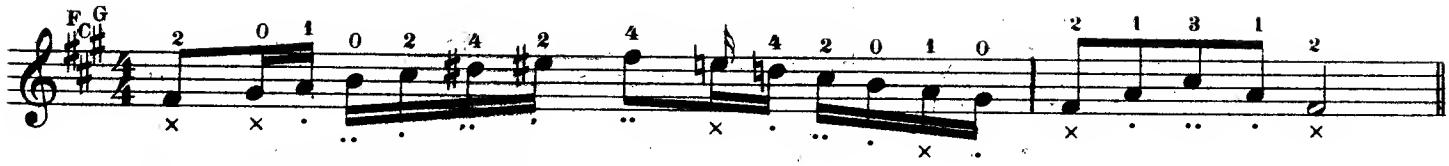
con espress. (with expression)



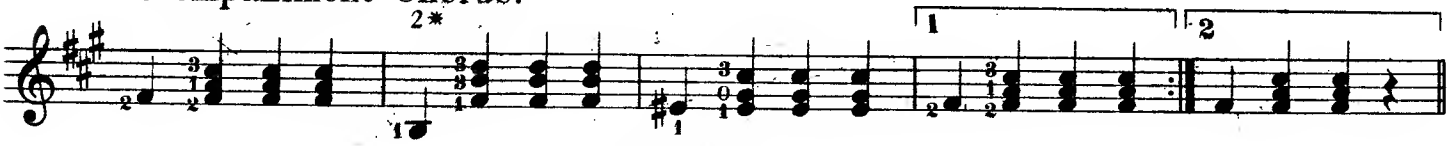
Memorize the Definition of the following Signs:

Piano: ***p***	means to play softly	*Andante:*	means gentle, rather slow
Pianissimo: ***pp***	" " " very soft	*Andantino:*	" slower than Andante
Mezzo Forte: ***mf***	" " " moderately loud	*Allegro:*	" quick
Forte: ***f***	" " " loudly	*Allegretto:*	" less quick than Allegro
Fortissimo: ***ff***	" " " very loud	*Animato:*	" with spirit, boldness
Crescendo, cresc: <	" " increase the sound	*Largo:*	" slow
Diminuendo, dim: >	" " diminish " "	*Moderato:*	" in moderate time
Ritardando, rit:	" " gradually slacken the pace	*Con spirito*	" with animation and spirit
Accelerando, accel:	" accelerating the time	*Vivace:*	" quick and cheerful
Con espress:	" with expression	*Presto:*	" quick
Fine or *Finale:*	" the End	*Tempo:*	" time

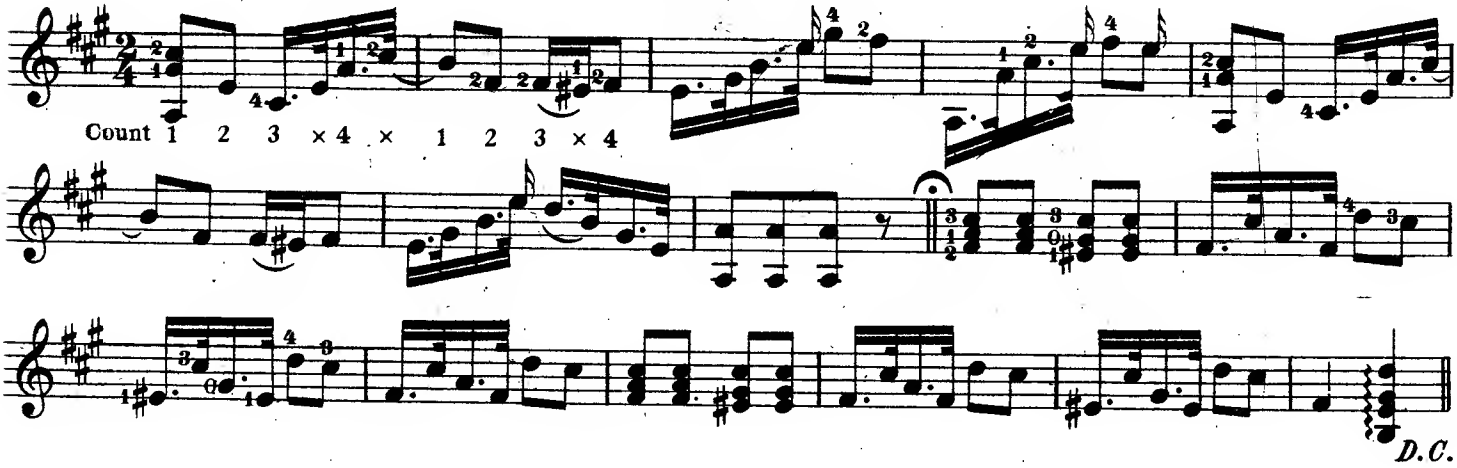
SCALE of F♯ minor. Relative Key to A major.



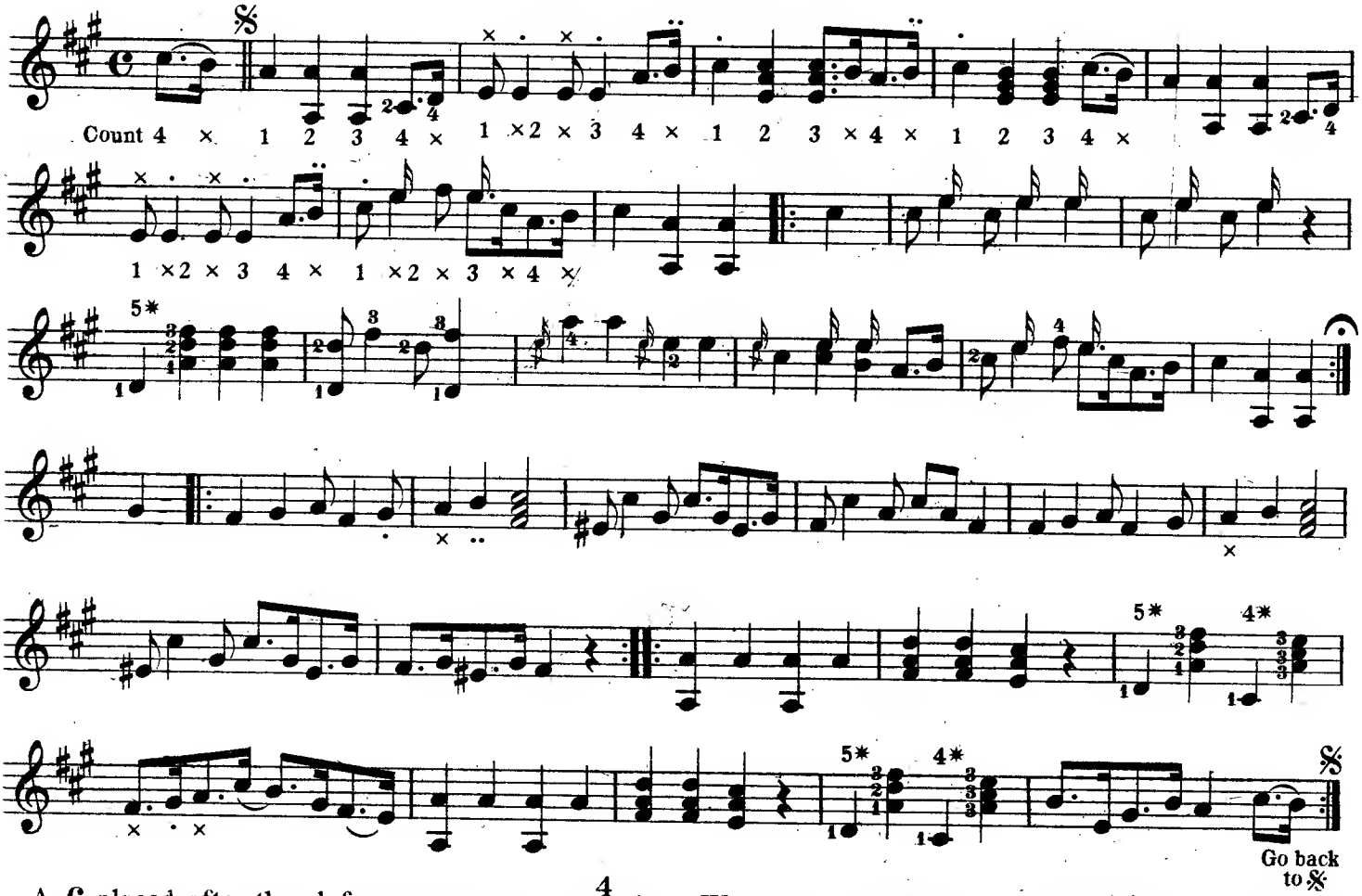
Accompaniment Chords.



LAURA POLKA.

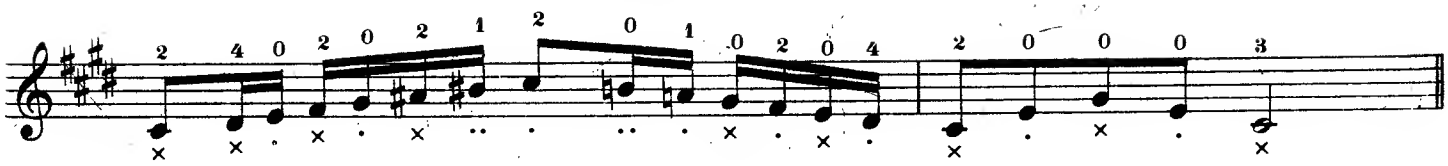


MOBILE MEDLEY.

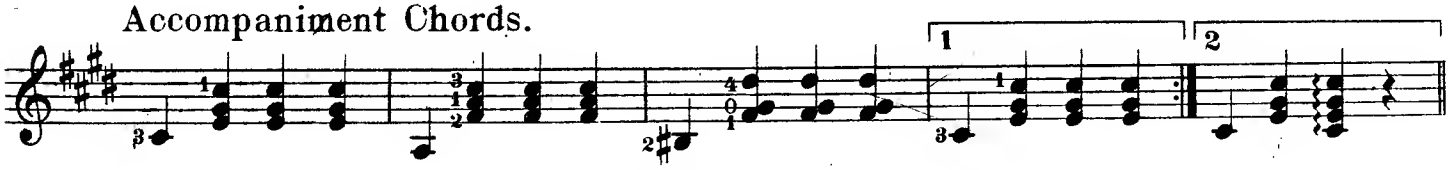


A **C** placed after the clef means common or $\frac{4}{4}$ time. When a **C** is crossed by a line (¢) it means that the piece must be played quick as if it was written in $\frac{2}{4}$ time.

SCALE of C♯ minor. Relative Key to E major.

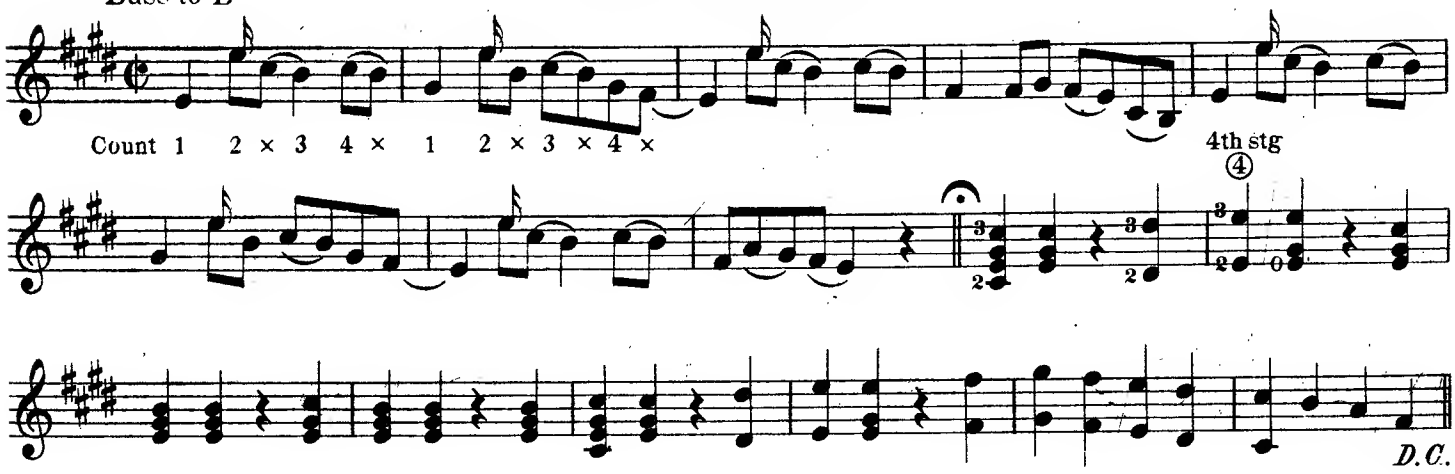


Accompaniment Chords.



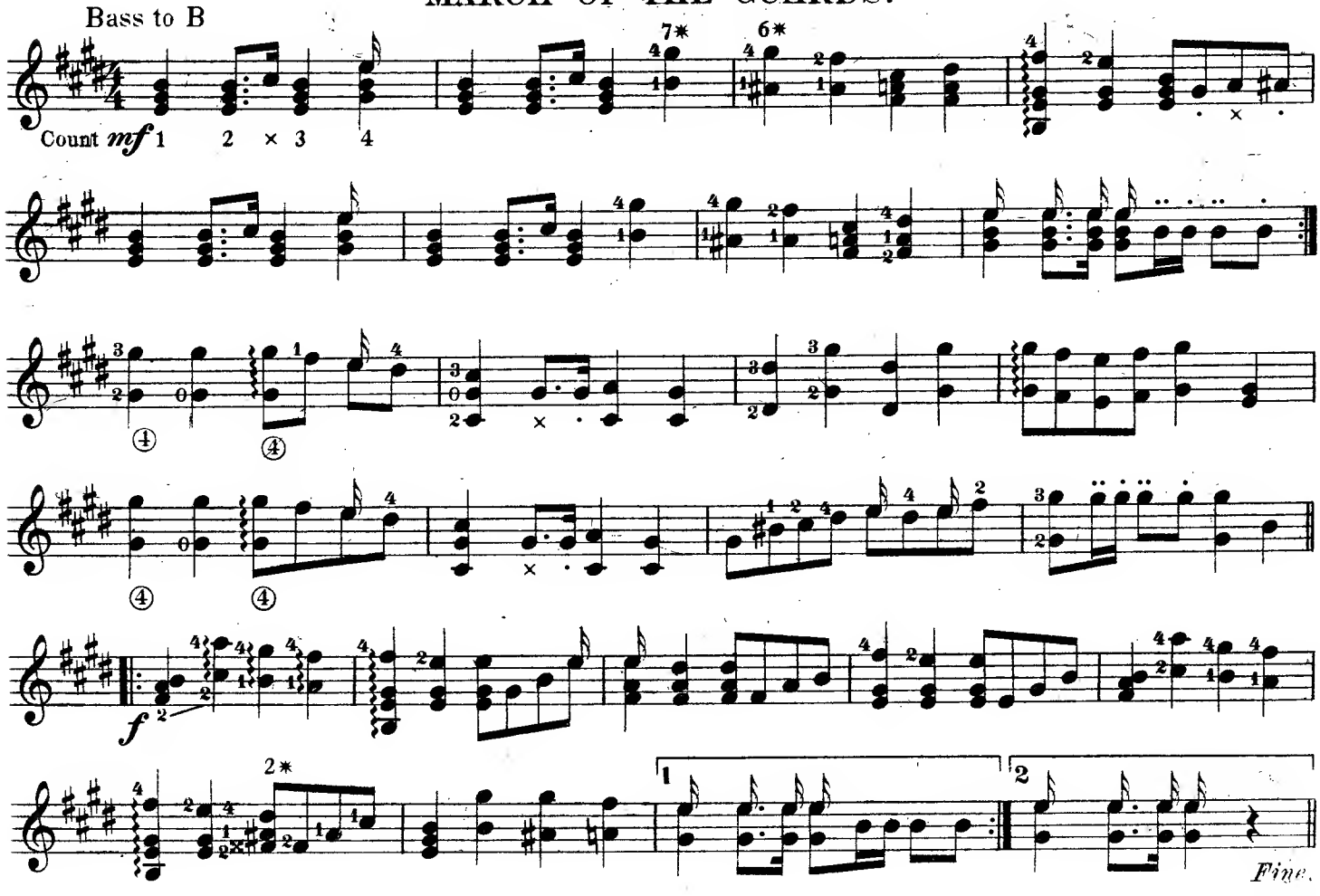
KELTON'S REEL.

Bass to B



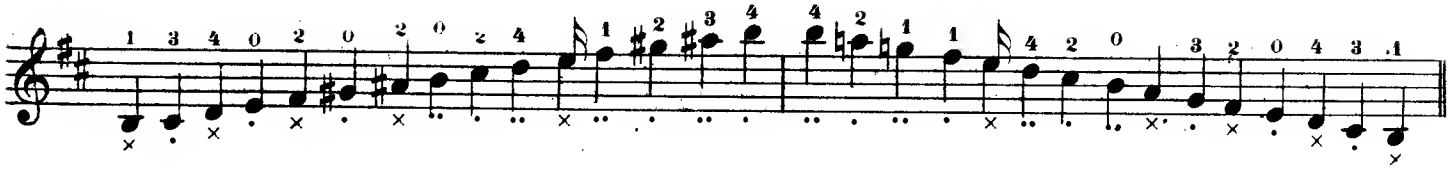
MARCH OF THE GUARDS.

Bass to B

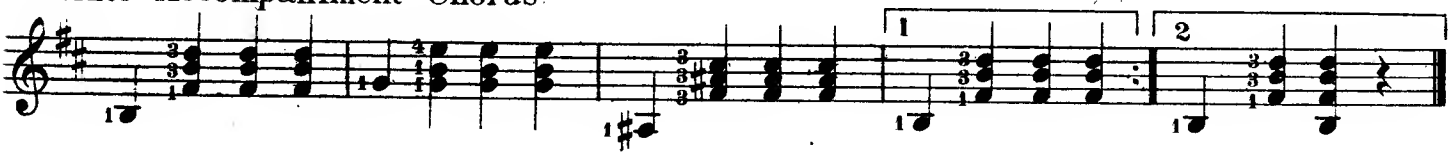


Jennings Banjo School.

Key of B minor.

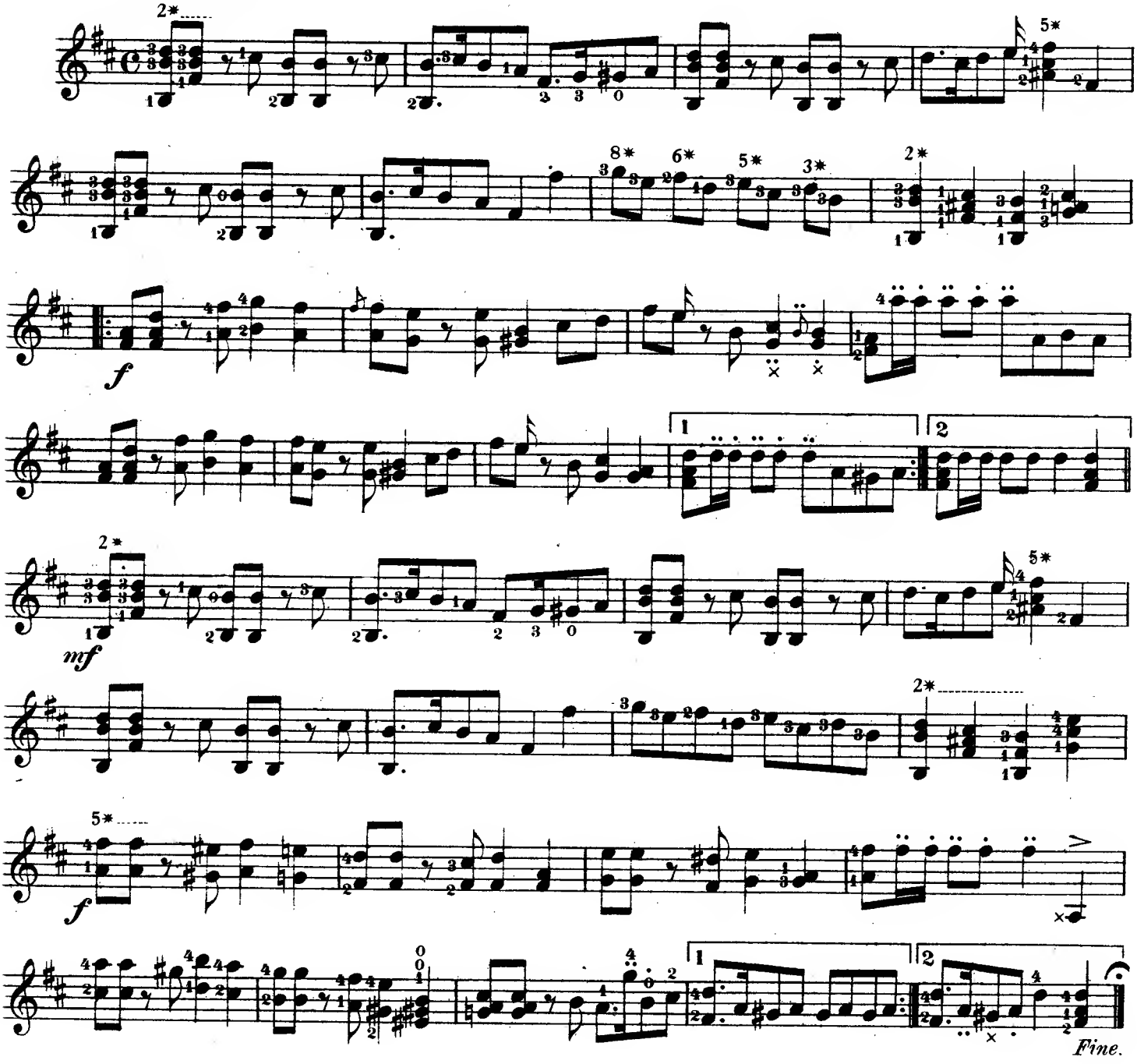


B minor Accompaniment Chords



SONNY JOHNSON'S CAKE WALK.

Moderato.



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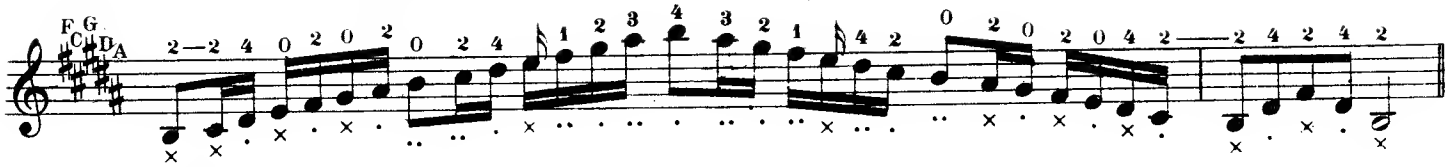
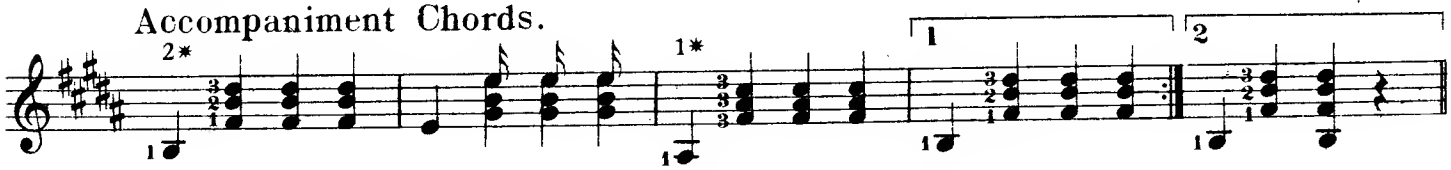
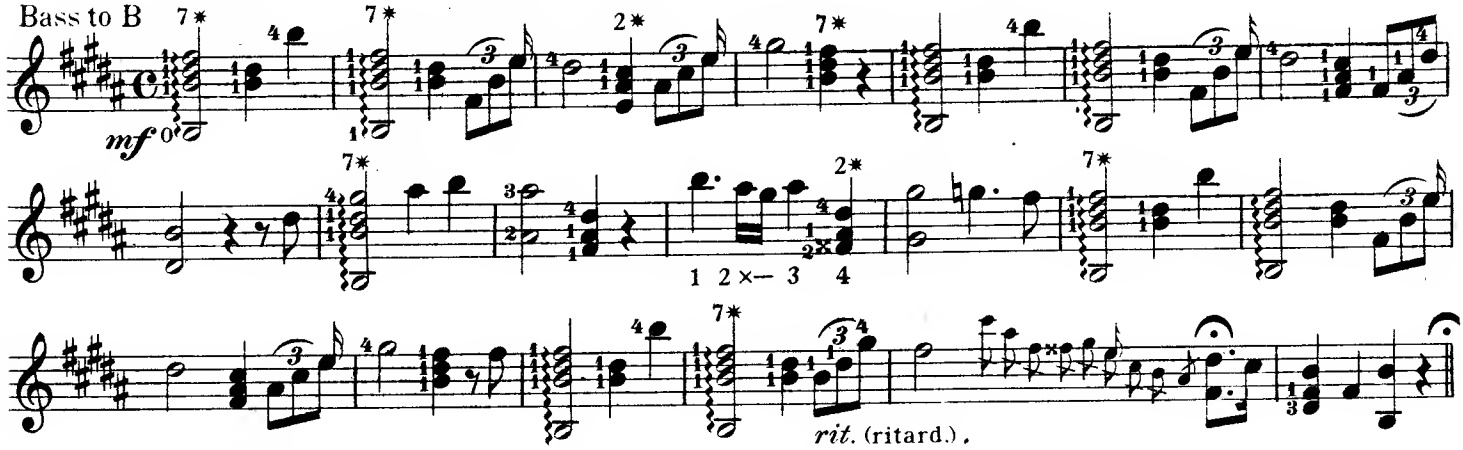
SCALE of B major.



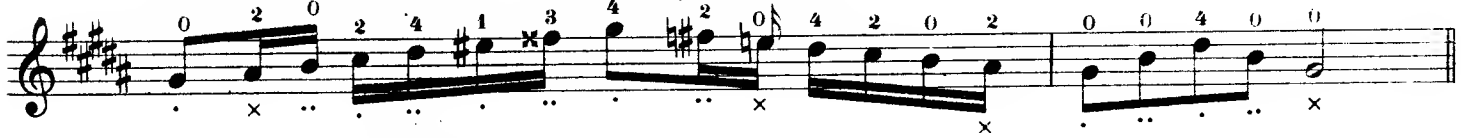
Accompaniment Chords.



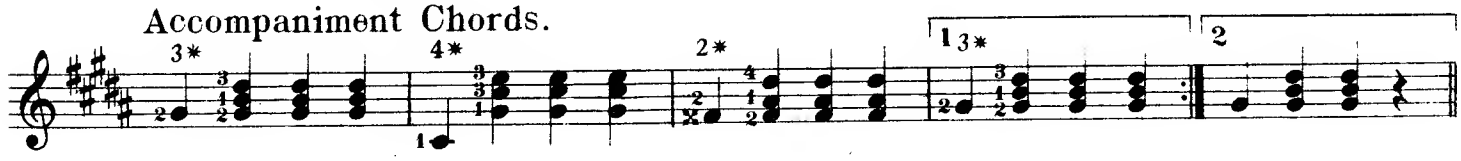
Moderato. SCENES THAT ARE BRIGHTEST.



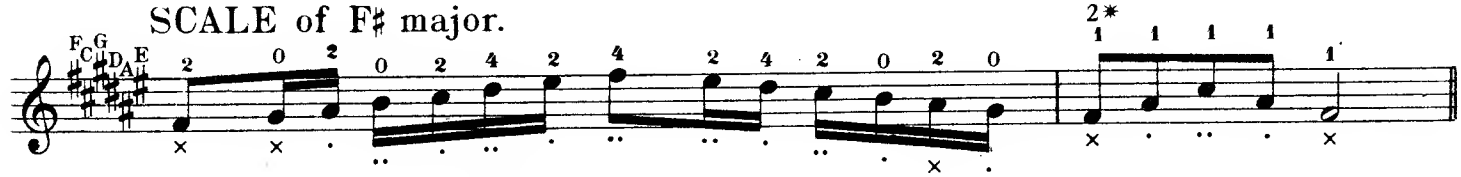
SCALE of G♯ minor. Relative Key to B major.



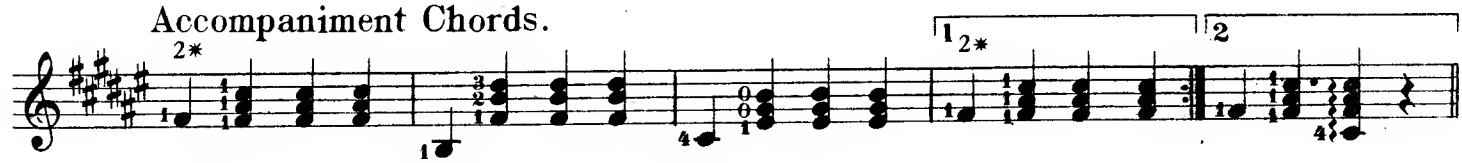
Accompaniment Chords.



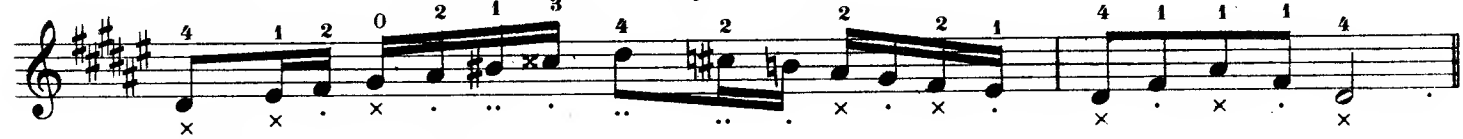
SCALE of F♯ major.



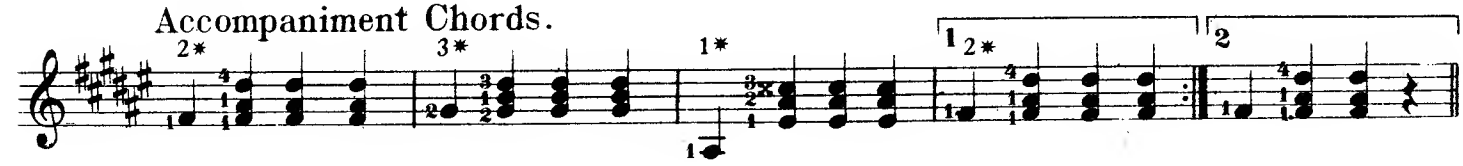
Accompaniment Chords.



SCALE of D♯ minor. Relative Key to F♯ major.



Accompaniment Chords.

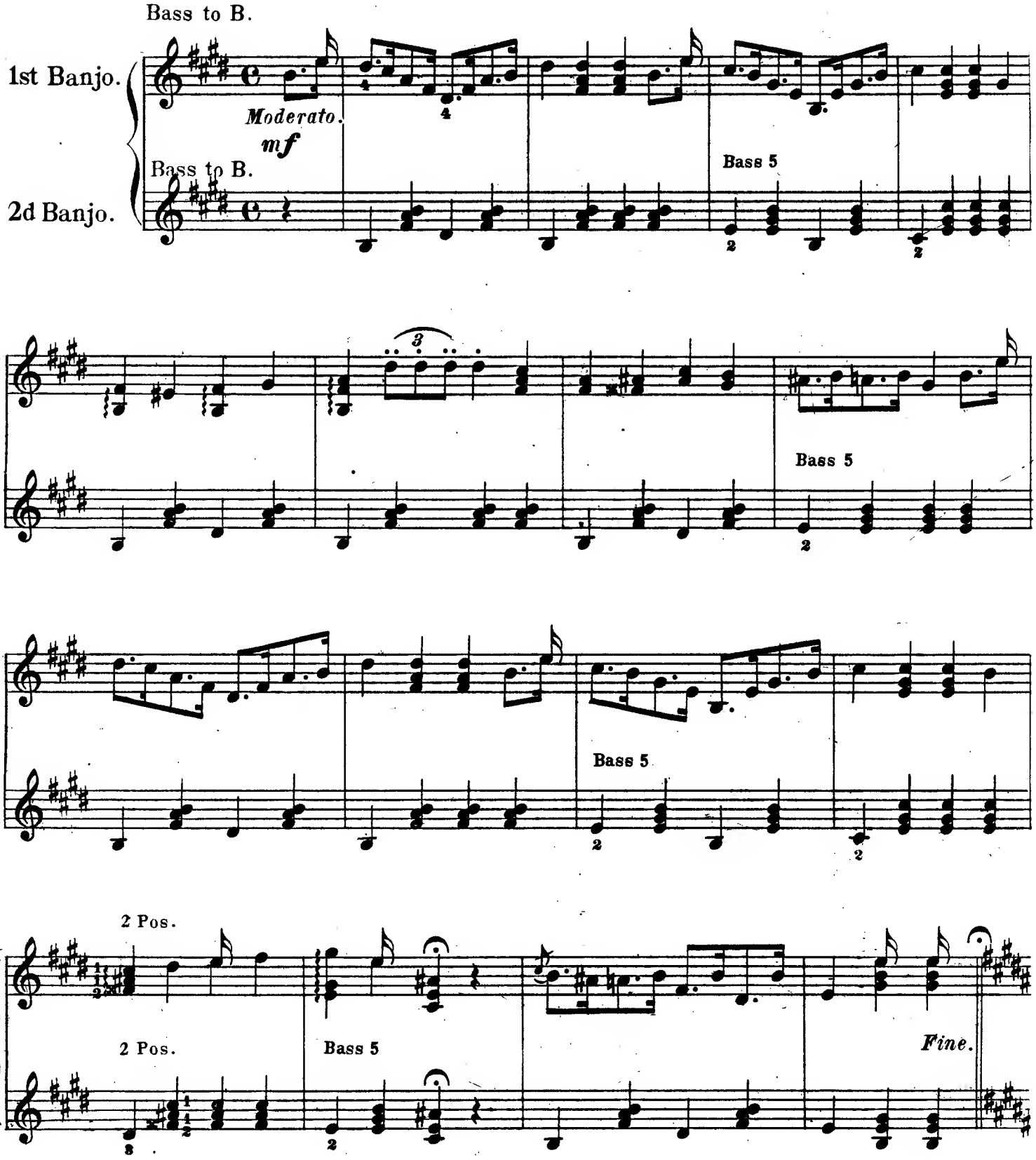


To Walter E. Weeden E. Greenwich R.I.

DANCING IN THE SURF.

SCHOTTISCHE.

J. H. Jennings.



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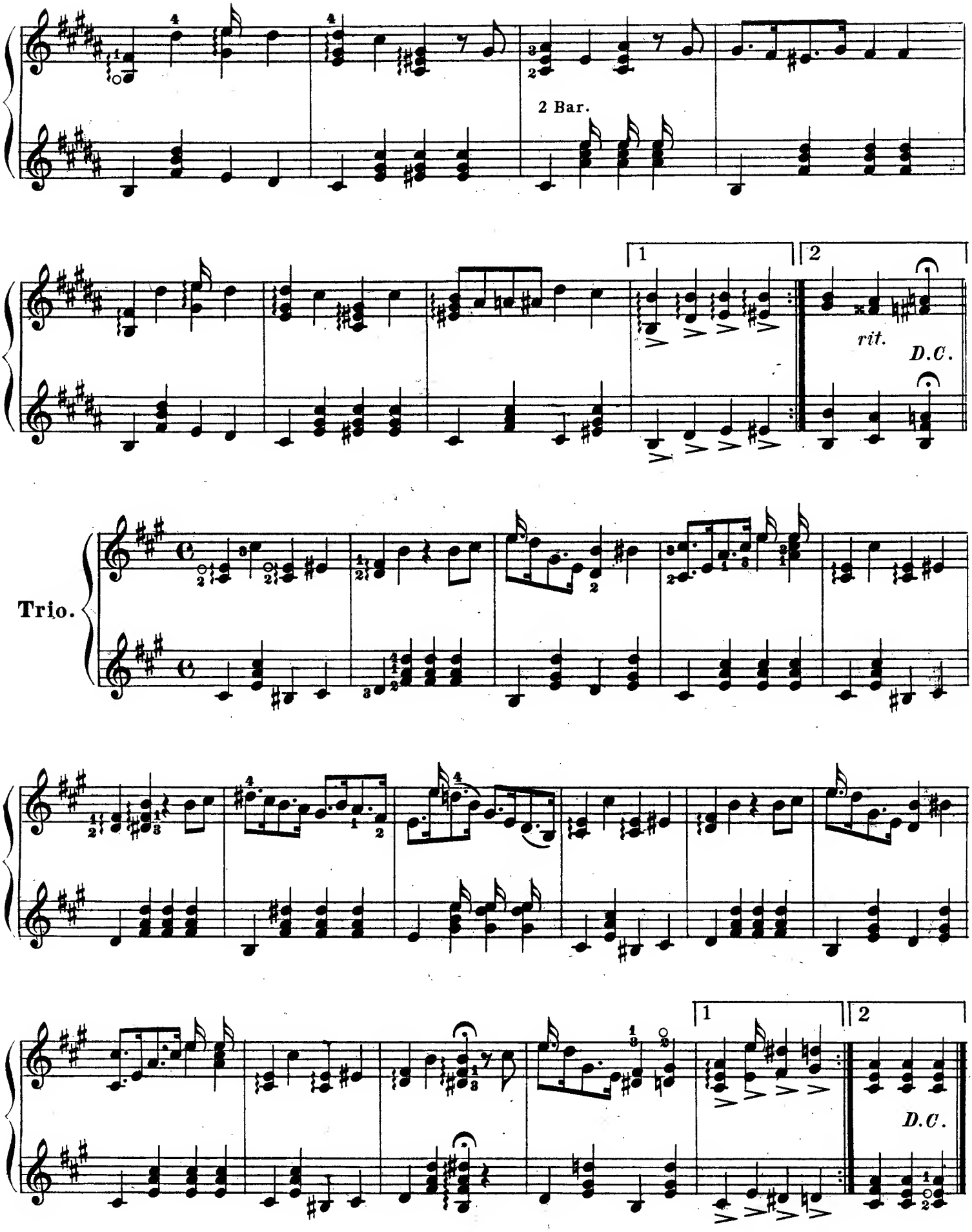
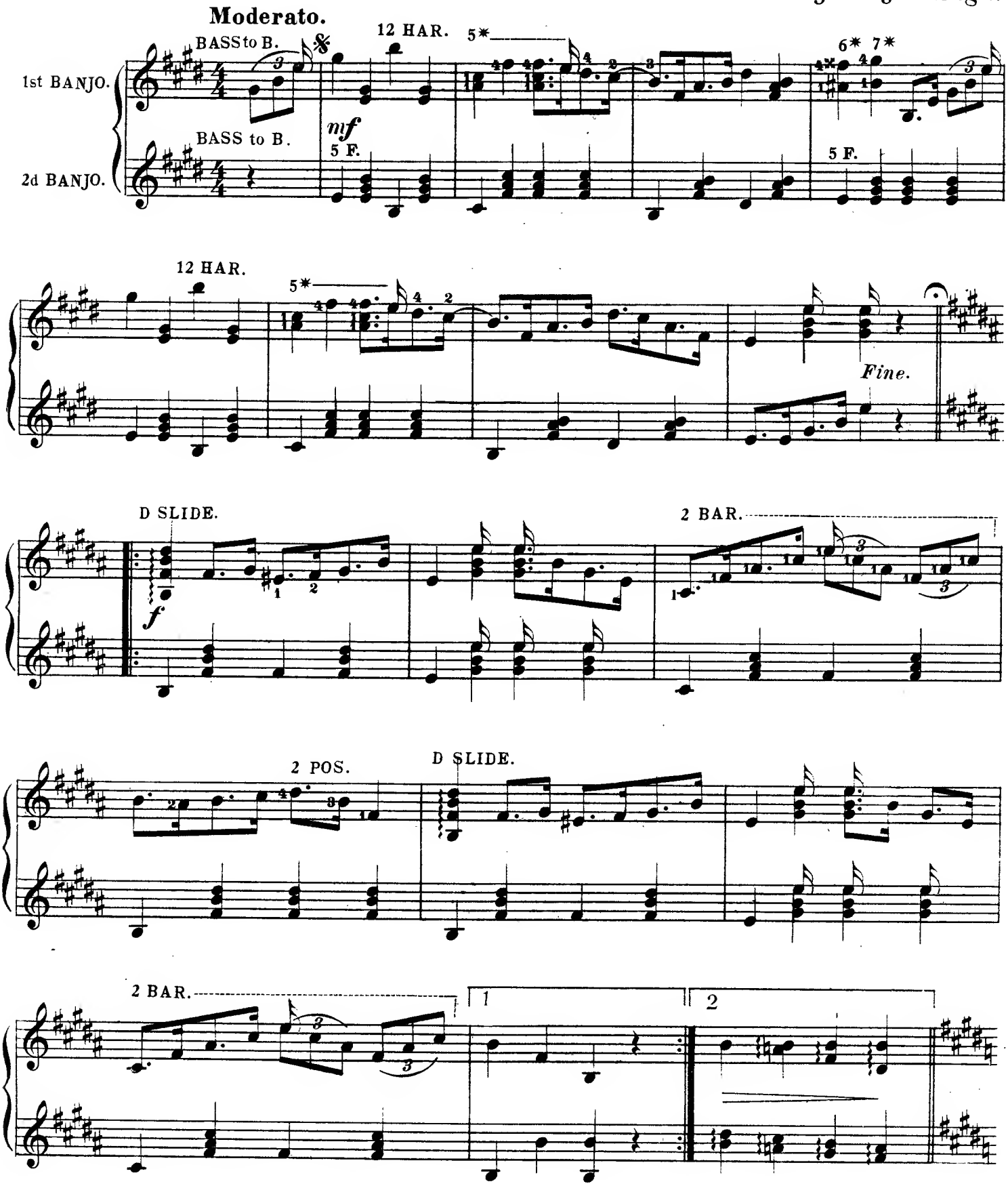

2 Bar.
1
2
rit.
D.C.
Trio.
1
2
D.C.

JENNINGS FAVORITE SCHOTTISCHE.

J. H. Jennings.



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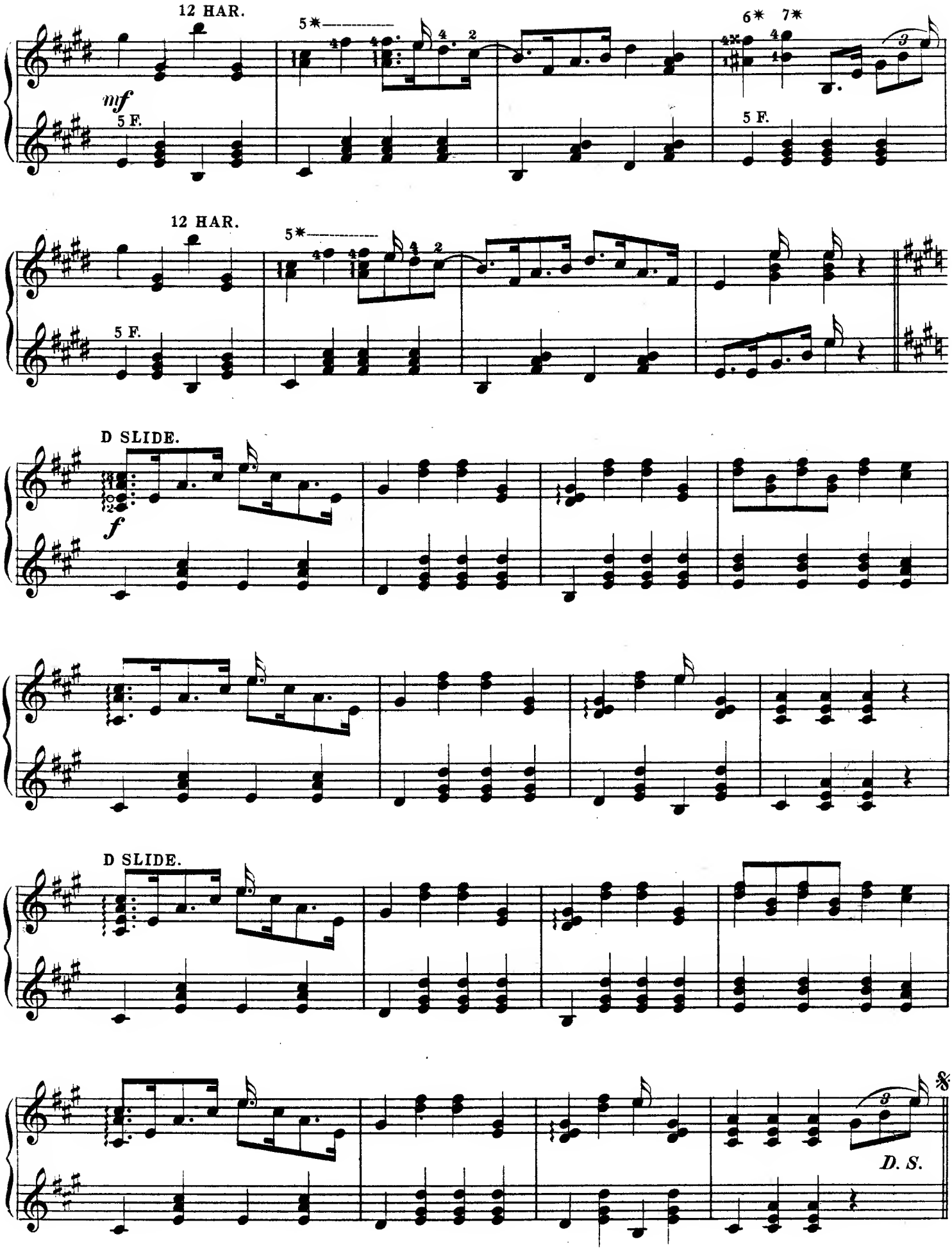
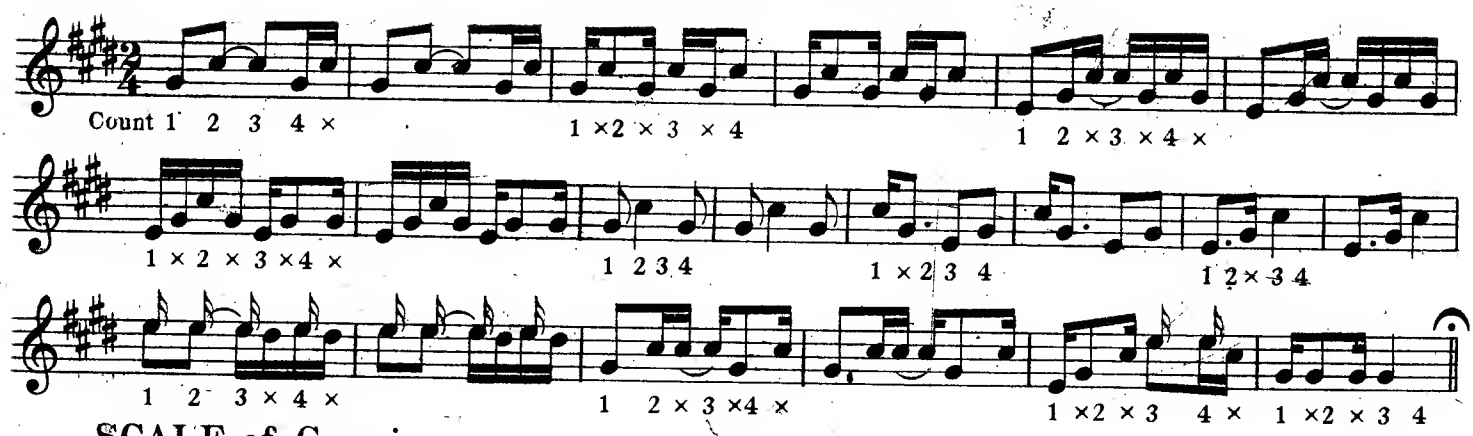
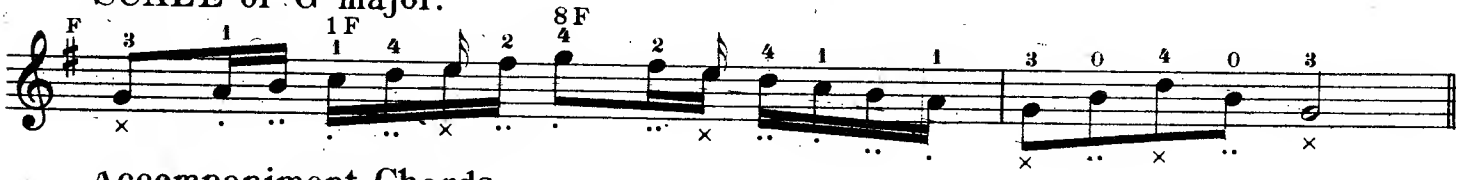

12 HAR.
5*
6* 7*
mf
5 F.
5 F.
12 HAR.
5*
5 F.
D SLIDE.
f
D SLIDE.
D. S.

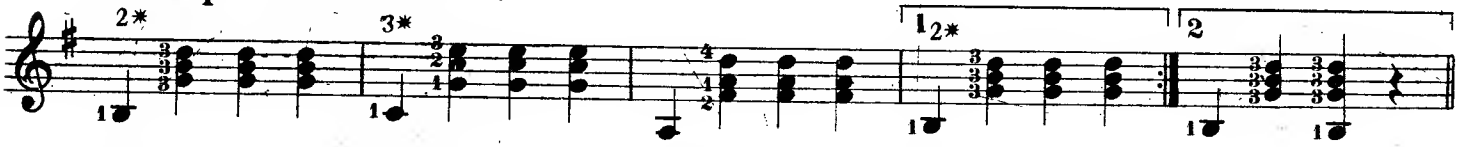
RAG TIME STUDY.



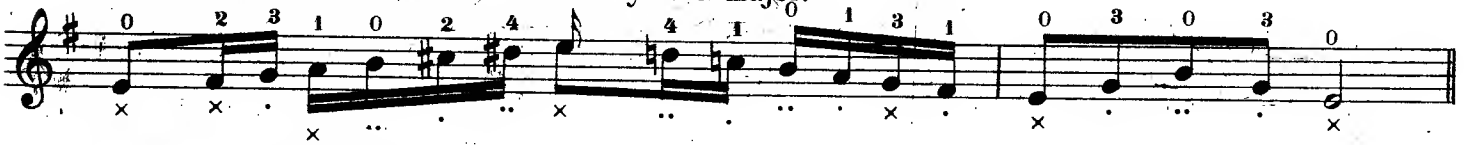
SCALE of G major.



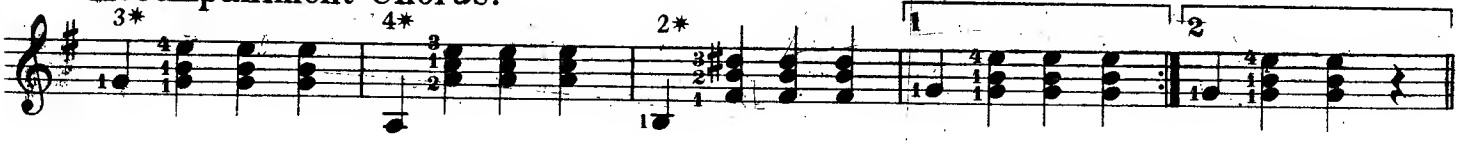
Accompaniment Chords.



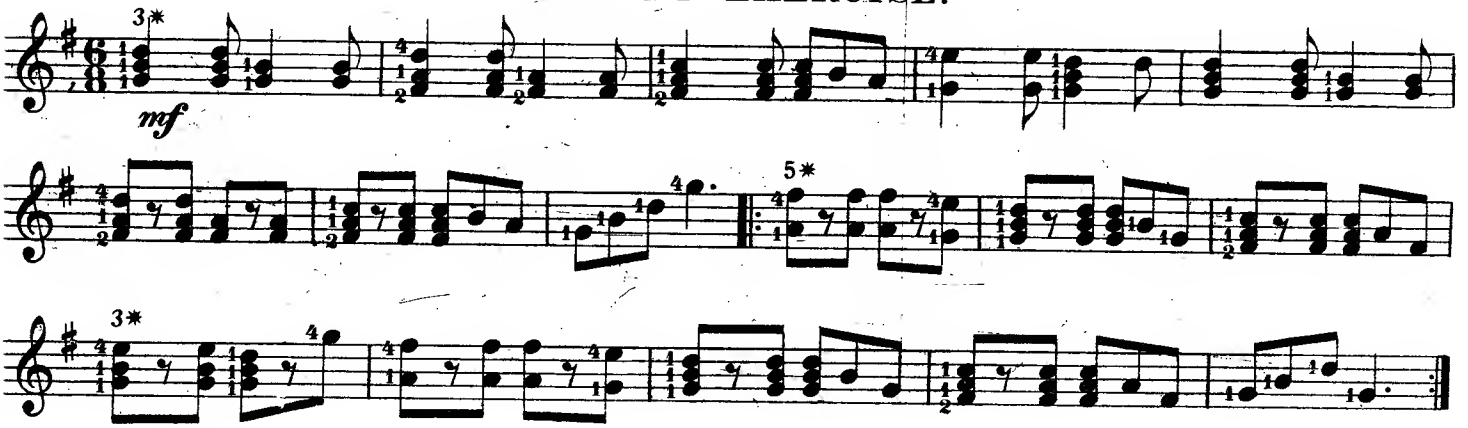
SCALE of E minor. Relative Key to G major.



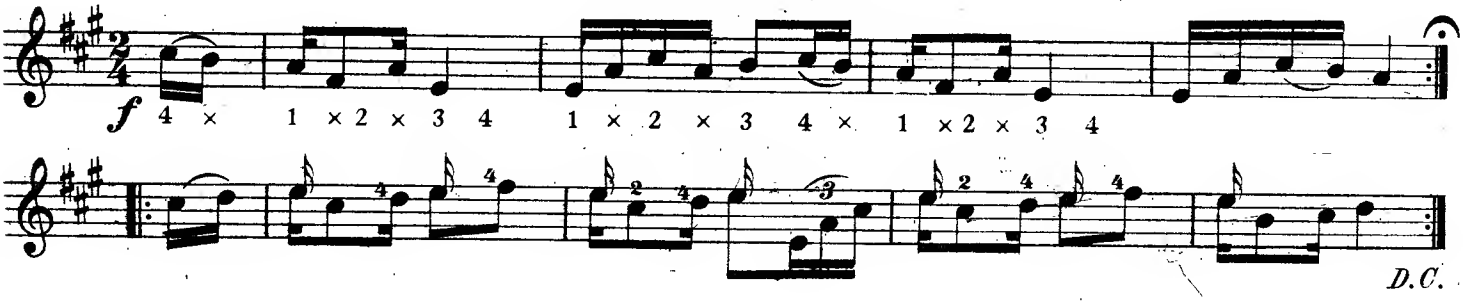
Accompaniment Chords.



MELODY EXERCISE.



BUCK DANCE.

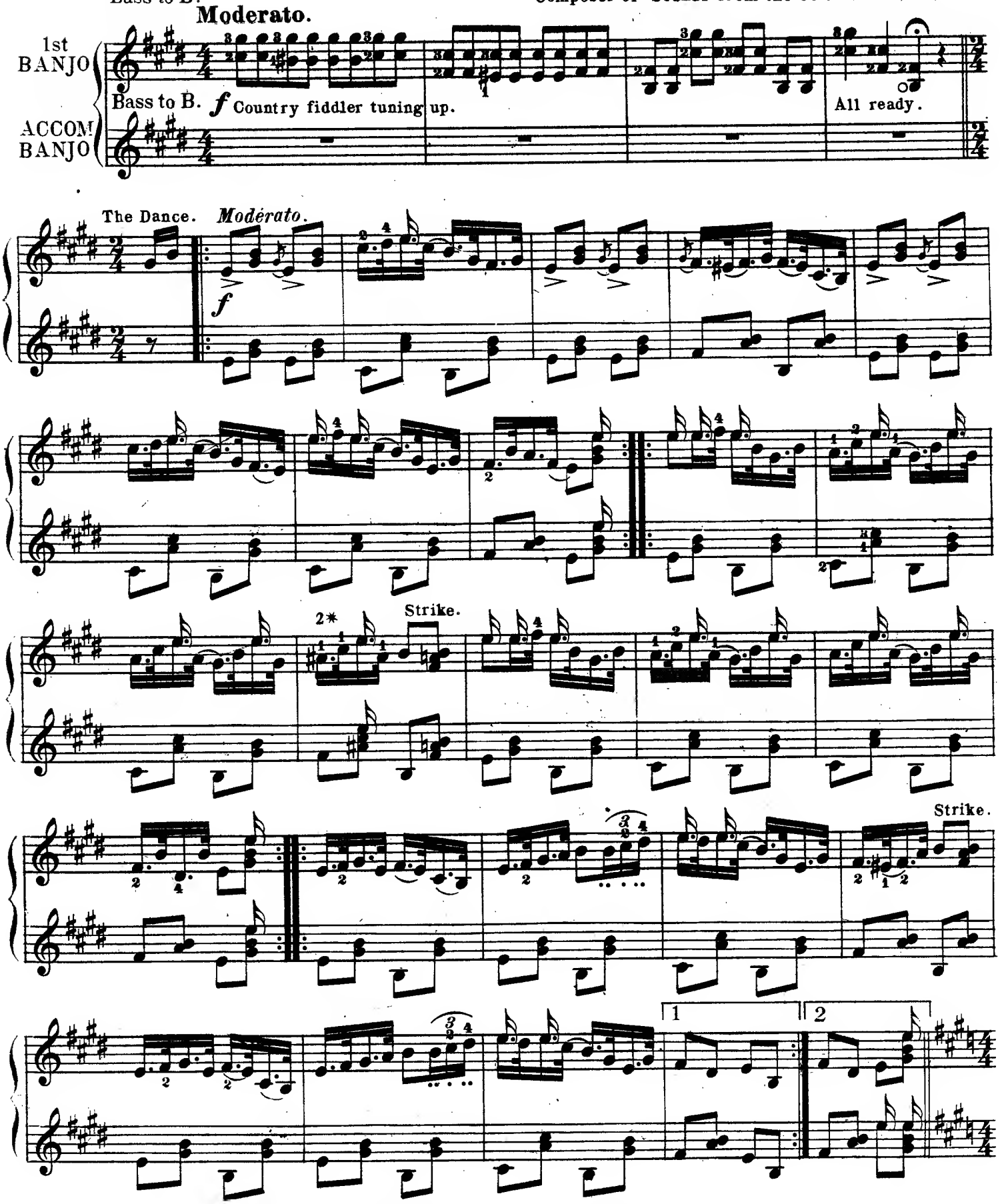


THE FARMERS JUBILEE.

OR ECHOES FROM A COUNTRY DANCE.

J. H. Jennings.

Composer of "Sounds from the Cottonfields," etc.



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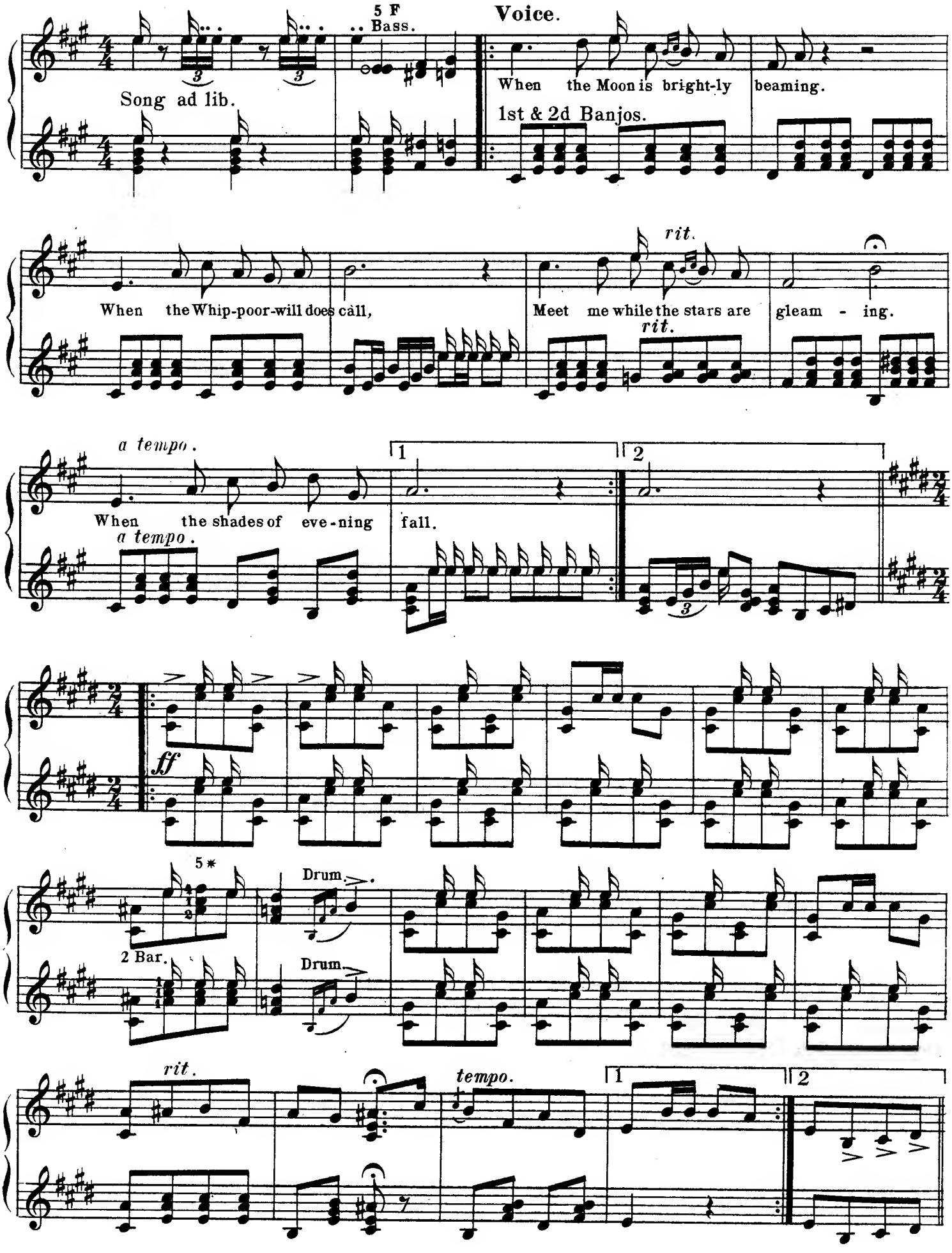
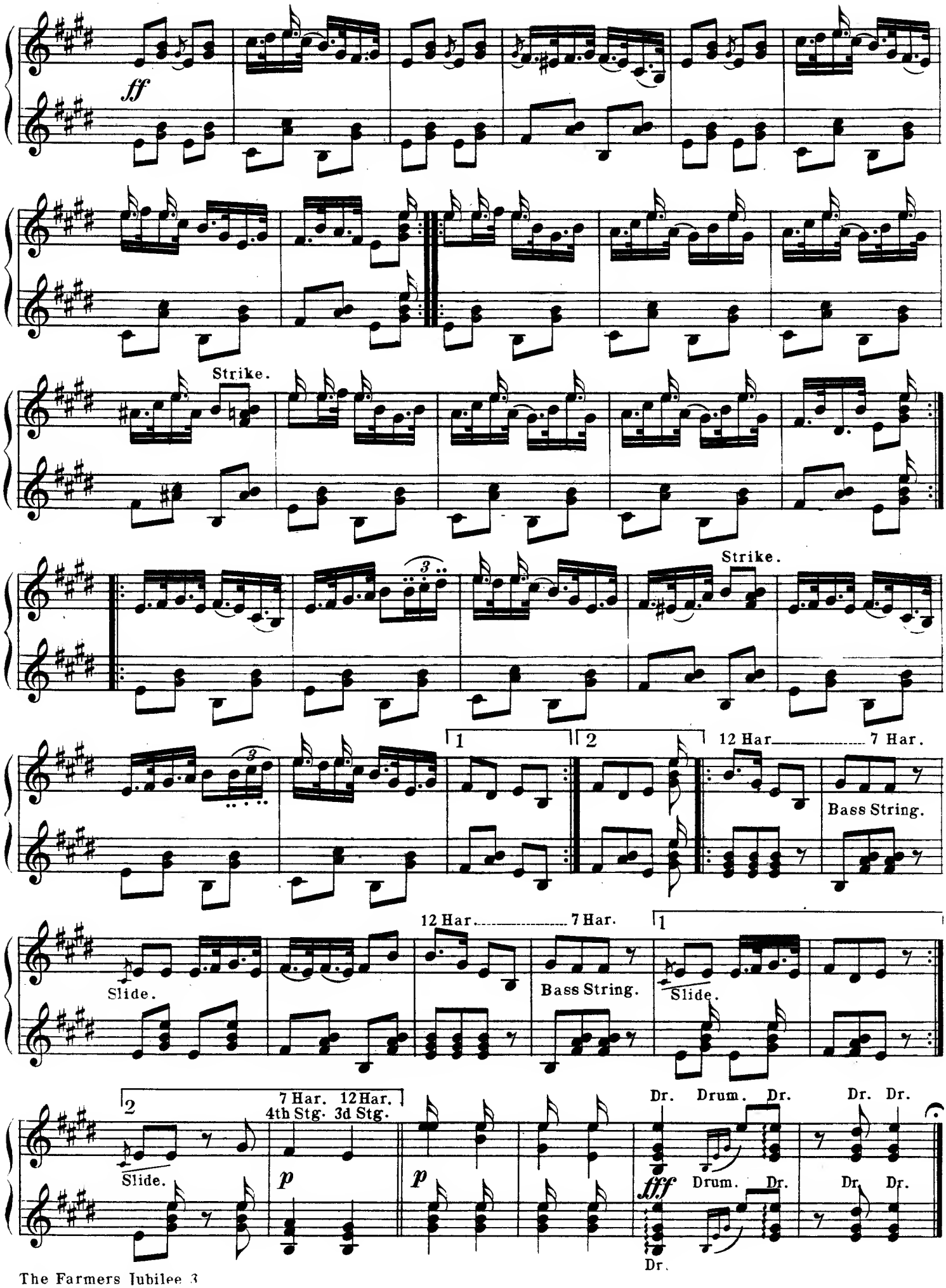

5 F
Bass.
Voice.
Song ad lib.
When the Moon is bright-ly beaming.
1st & 2d Banjos.
rit.
When the Whip-poor-will does call,
Meet me while the stars are gleam - ing.
rit.
a tempo.
1
2
When the shades of eve-ning fall.
a tempo.
ff
5 *
Drum.
2 Bar.
Drum.
rit.
tempo.
1
2


ff
Strike.
Strike.
1
2
12 Har. 7 Har.
Bass String.
12 Har. 7 Har.
1
Slide.
Bass String.
Slide.
2
7 Har. 12 Har.
4th Stg. 3d Stg.
Slide.
p
p
Dr. Drum. Dr.
Dr. Dr.
fff
Drum. Dr.
Dr. Dr.
Dr.

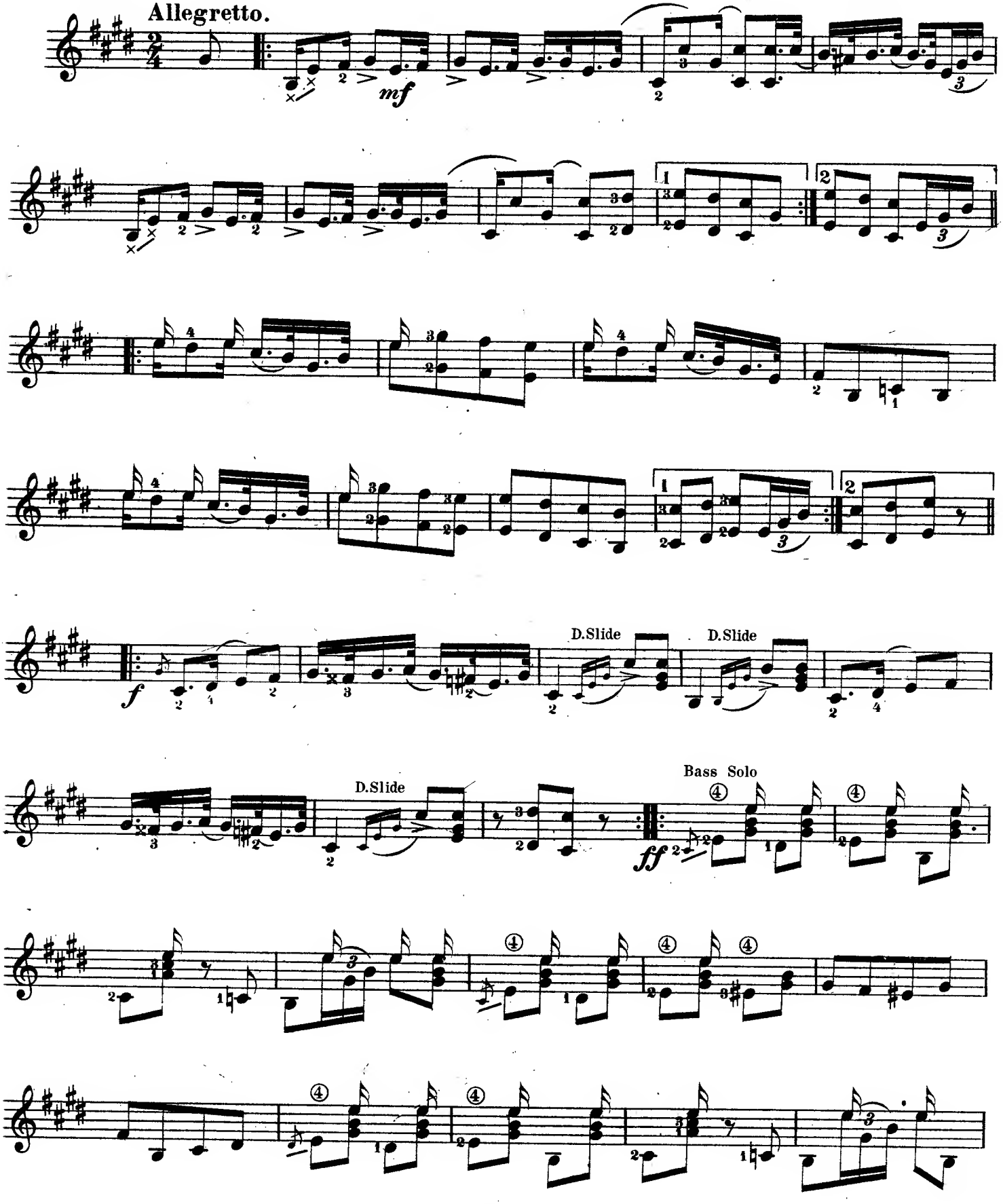
SOUNDS FROM THE COTTONFIELDS.

(A Ragtime Echo.)

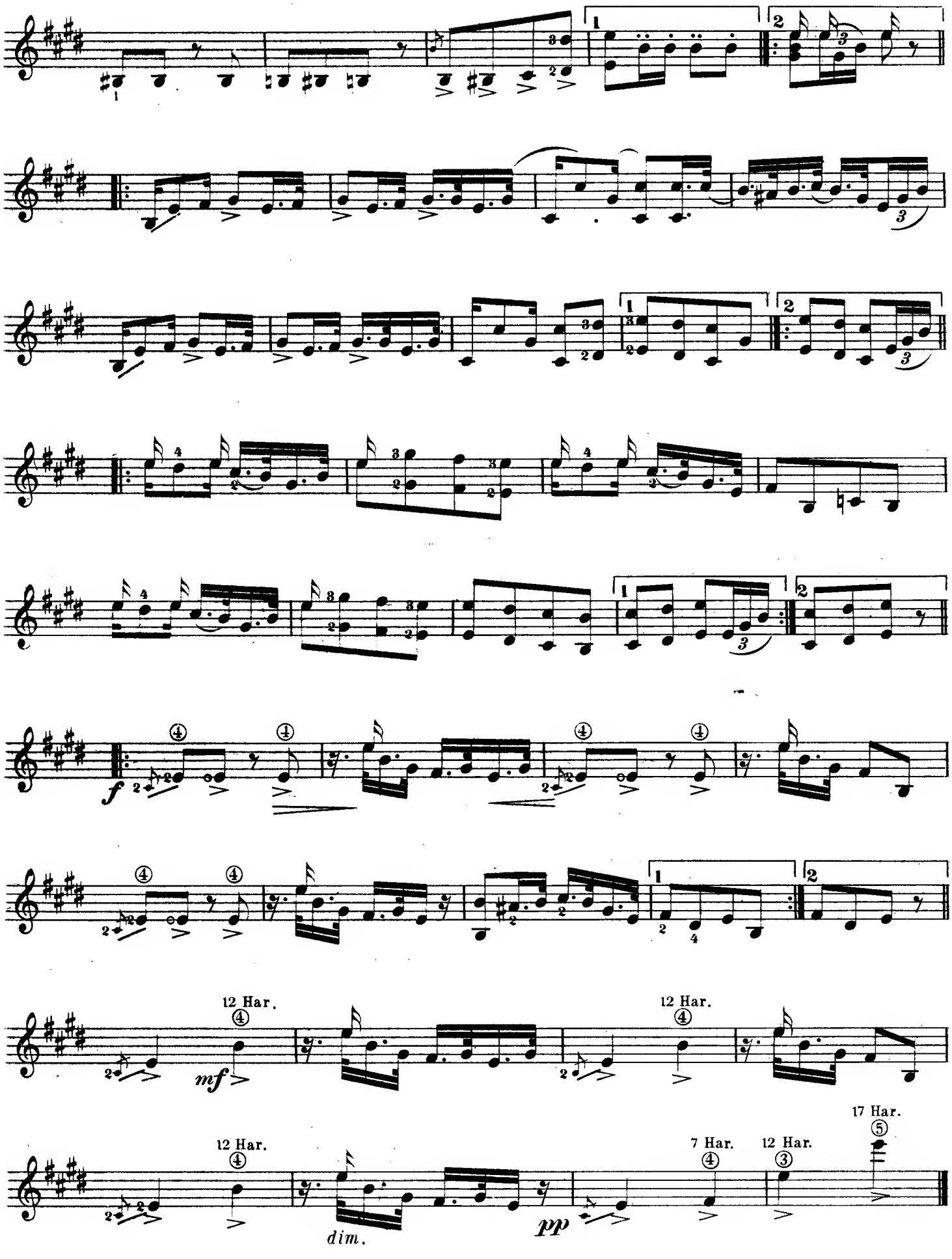
SOLO PART.

J. H. JENNINGS.

Bass to B.



Copyright 1893 by J. H. Jennings.


12 Har.
12 Har.
12 Har.
7 Har.
12 Har.
17 Har.
dim.

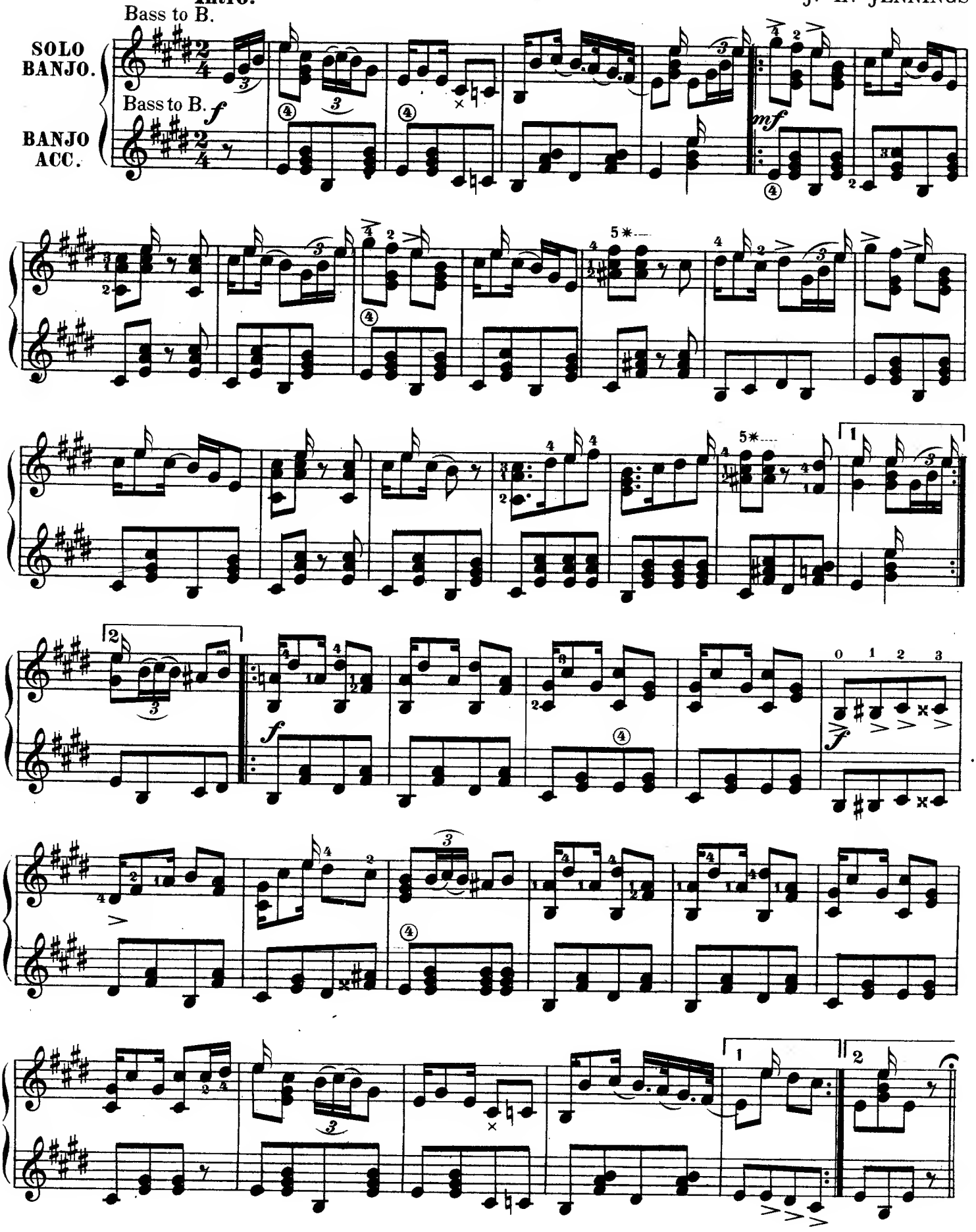
To The Jennings B. G. & M. Club, Pawtucket R. I.

AT A RAG TIME BALL.

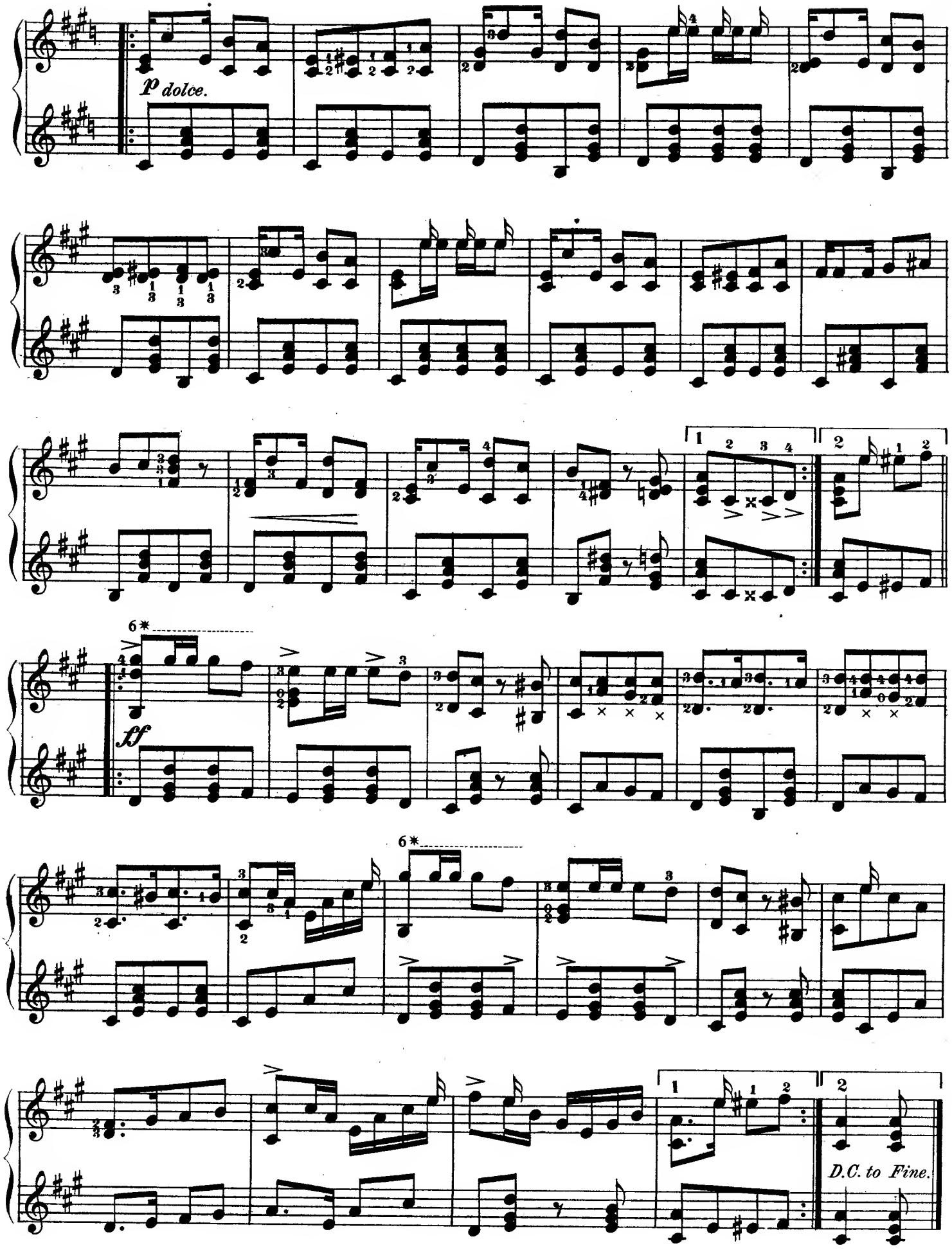
CAKE WALK and TWO STEP.

Intro.

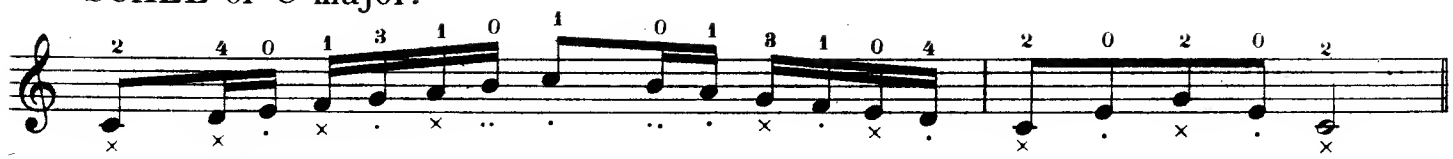
J. H. JENNINGS



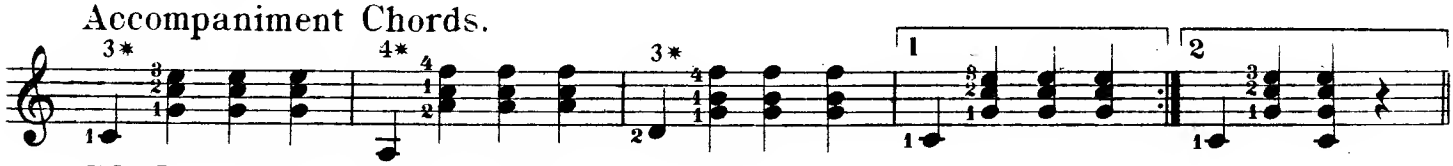
Copyright 1900 by J. H. Jennings.


p dolce.
6*
ff
6*
D.C. to Fine.

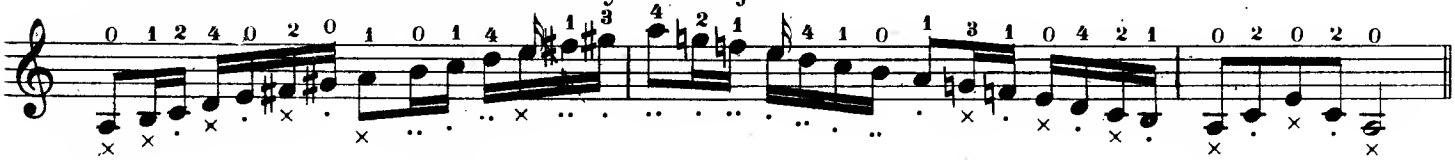
SCALE of C major.



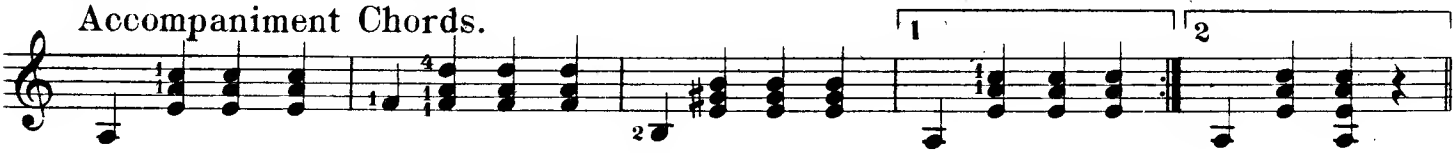
Accompaniment Chords.



SCALE of A minor. Relative Key to C major.

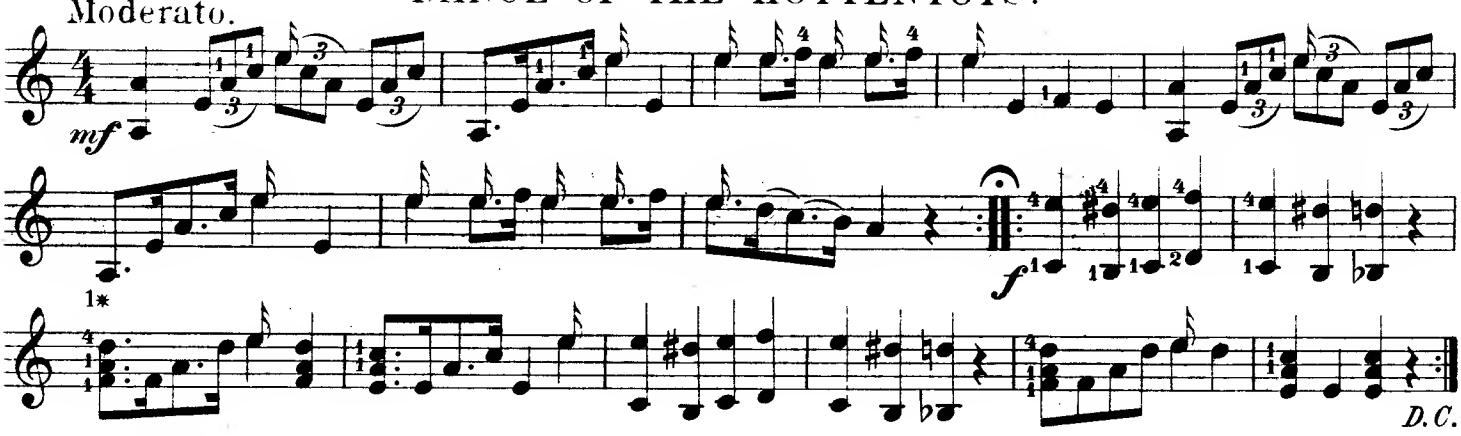


Accompaniment Chords.

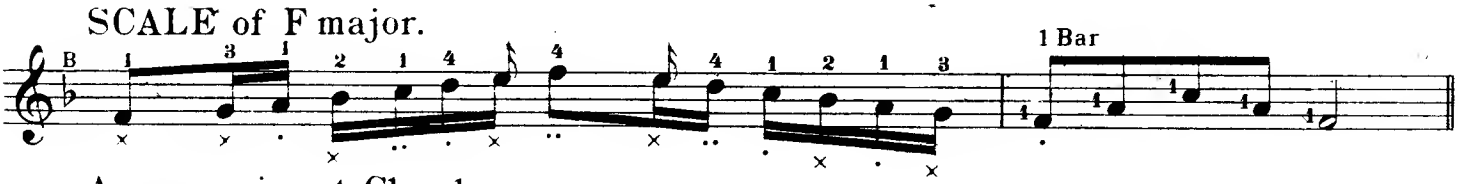


DANCE OF THE HOTTENTOTS.

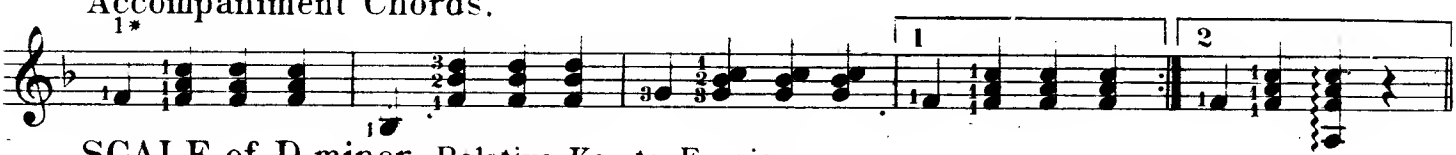
Moderato.



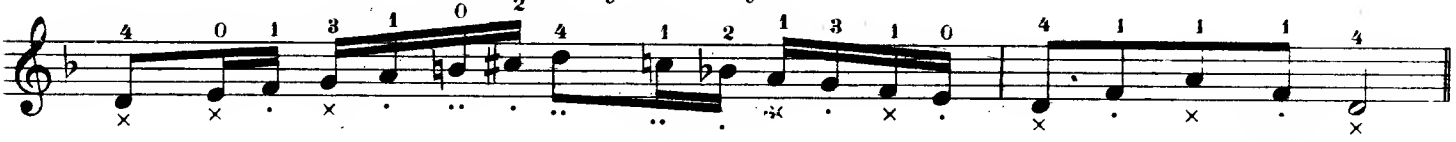
SCALE of F major.



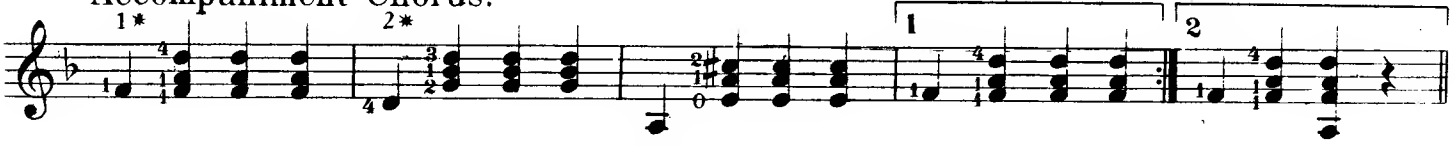
Accompaniment Chords.



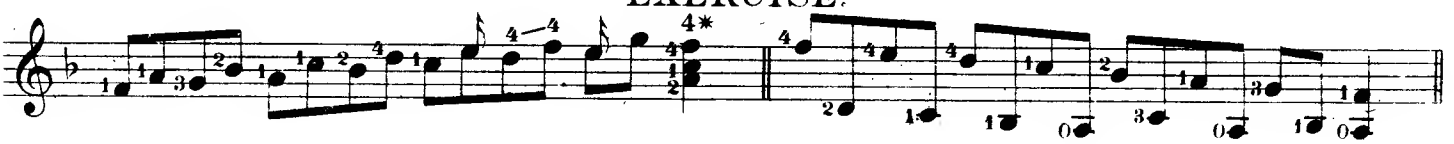
SCALE of D minor. Relative Key to F major.



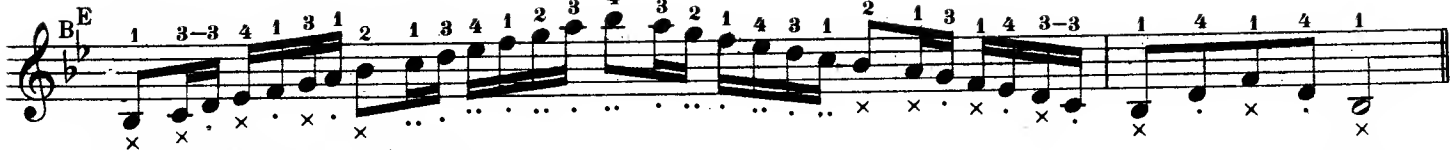
Accompaniment Chords.



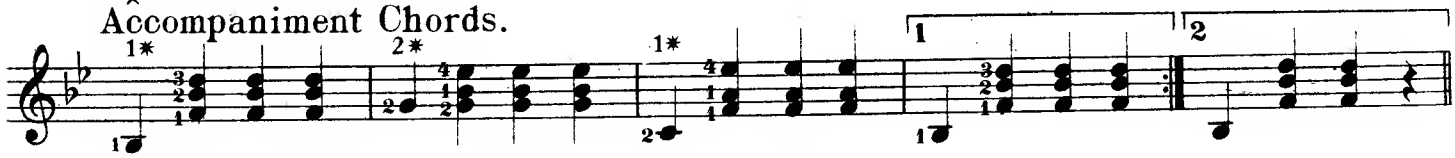
EXERCISE.



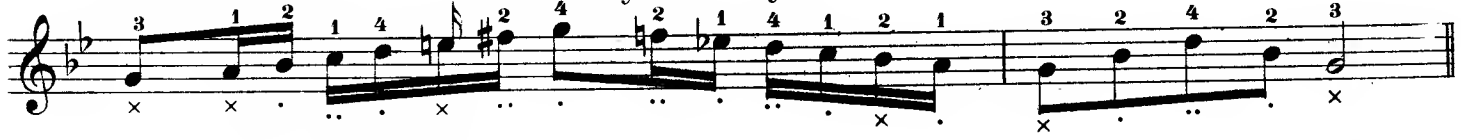
SCALE of B♭ major.



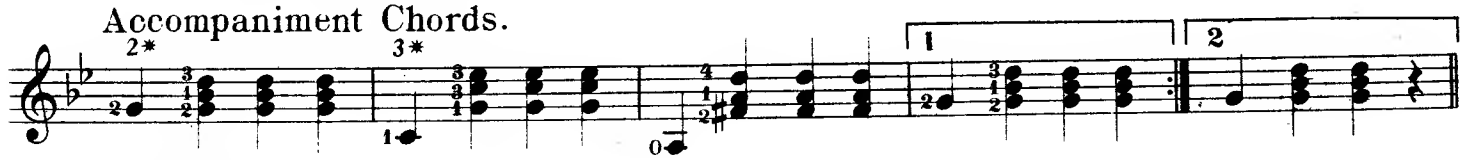
Accompaniment Chords.



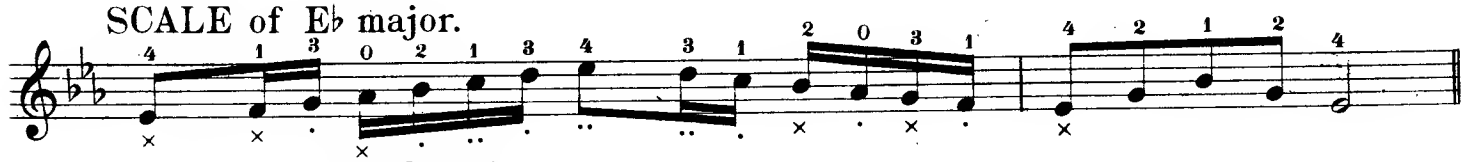
SCALE of G minor. Relative Key to B♭ major.



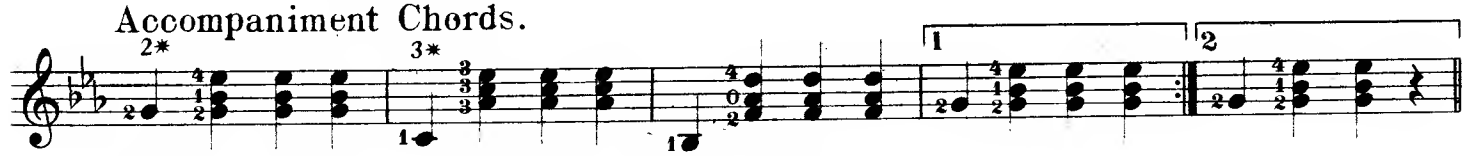
Accompaniment Chords.



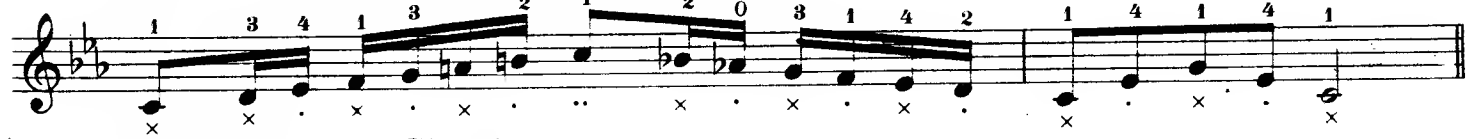
SCALE of E♭ major.



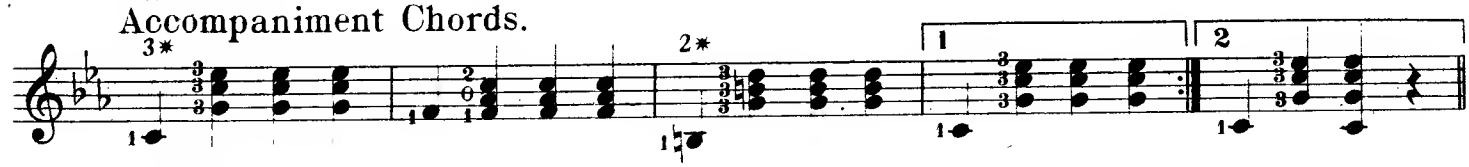
Accompaniment Chords.



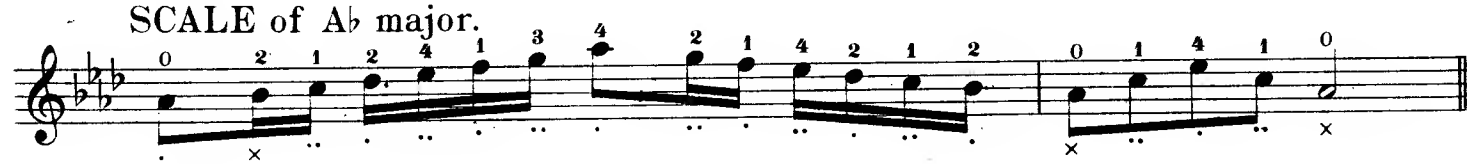
SCALE of C minor. Relative Key to E♭ major.



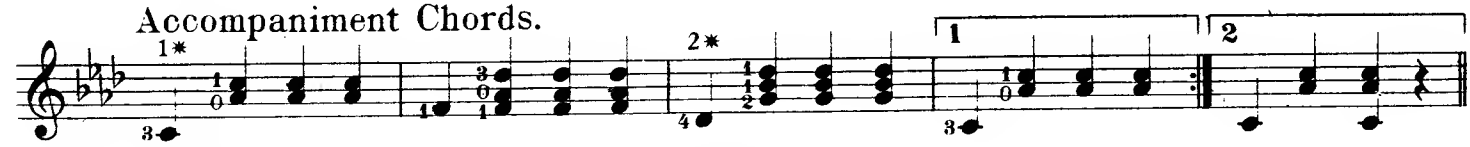
Accompaniment Chords.



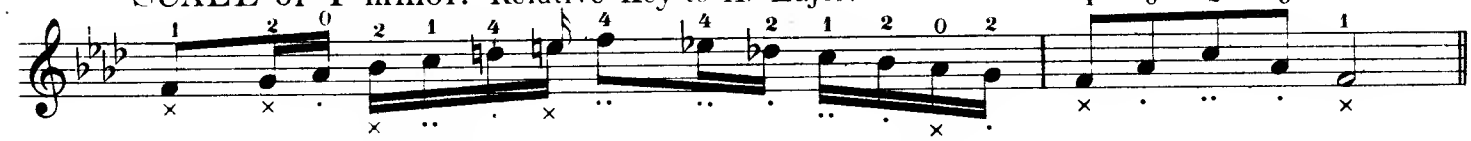
SCALE of A♭ major.



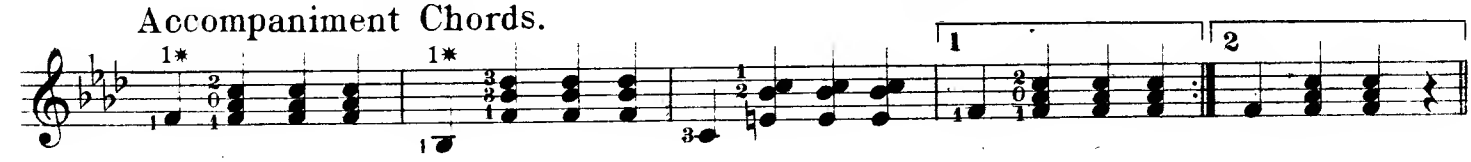
Accompaniment Chords.



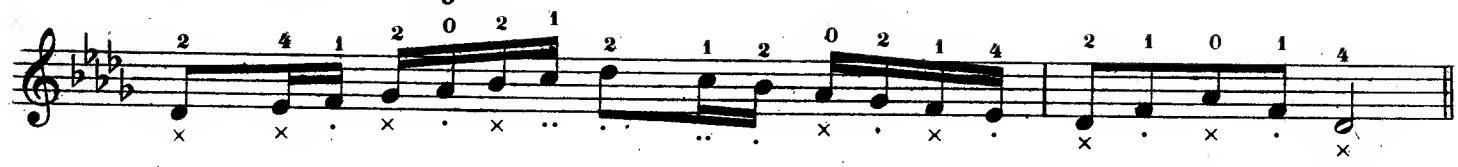
SCALE of F minor. Relative Key to A♭ major.



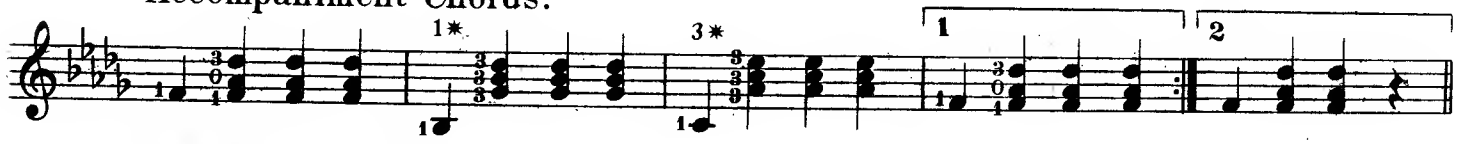
Accompaniment Chords.



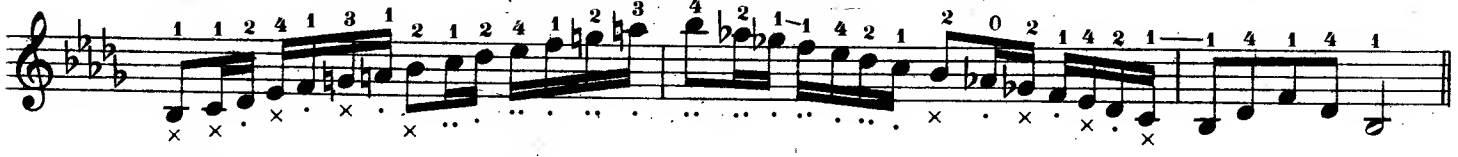
SCALE of D♭ major.



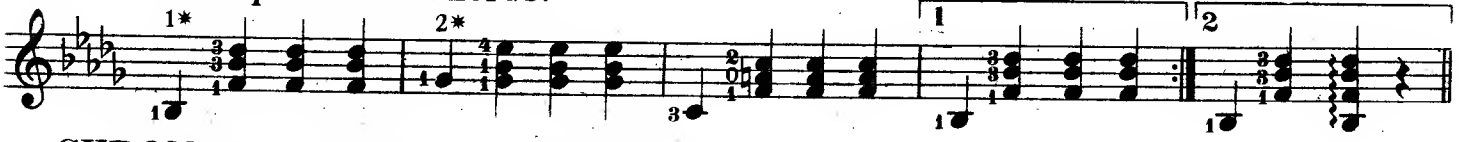
Accompaniment Chords.



SCALE of B♭ minor. Relative Key to D♭ major.



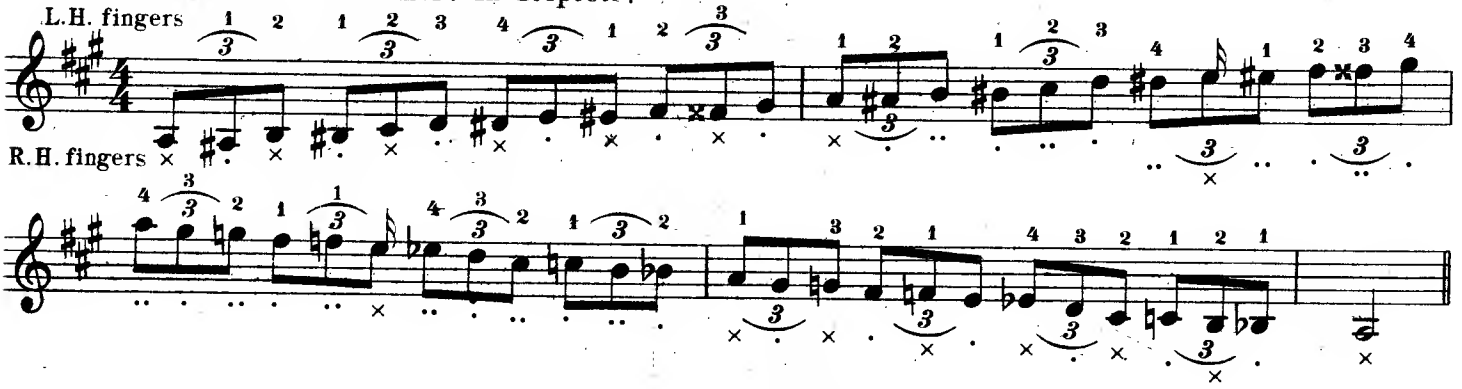
Accompaniment Chords.



CHROMATIC SCALE. In Triplets.

L.H. fingers

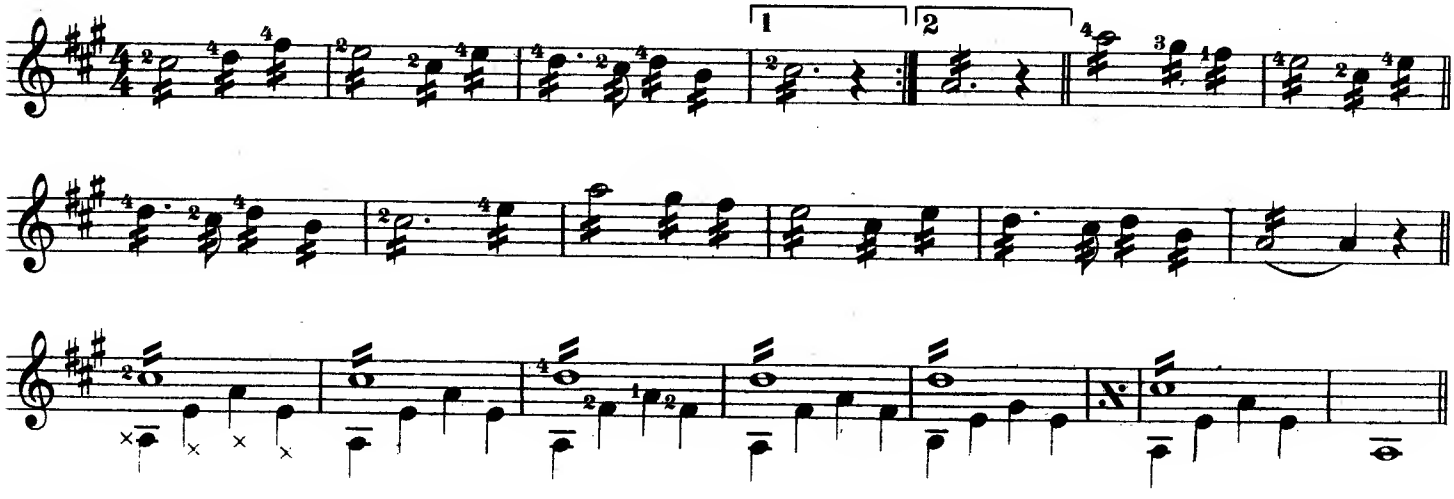
R.H. fingers



THE TREMOLO.

The tremolo is indicated by two small strokes through the stem of a note. It is executed with the 1st finger of right hand, which oscillates rapidly over the string, the 2nd or 3rd fingers rests on head of Banjo. The notes with stem turned down are to be played with the thumb.

EXERCISE.



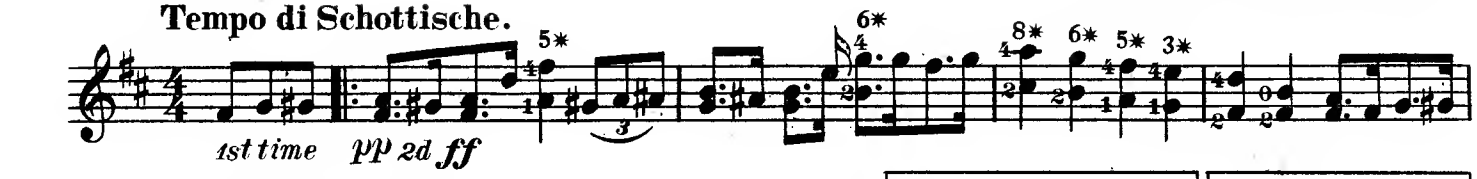
FAIRY QUEEN.

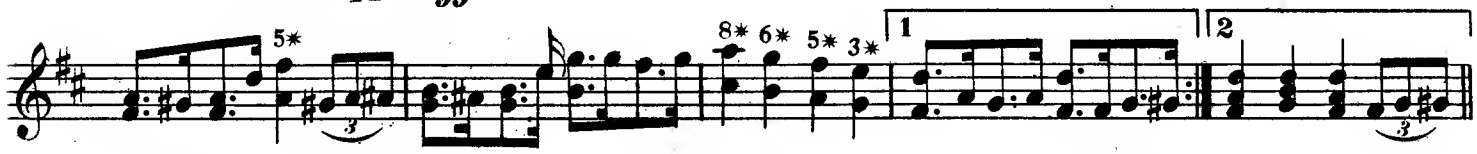
1st BANJO.

Song and Dance Melody.

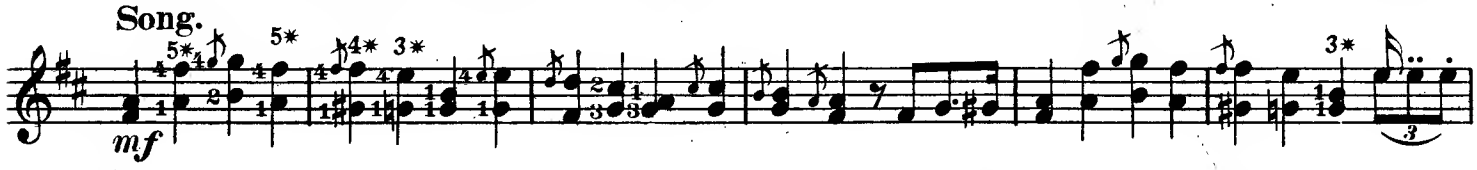
J. H. Jennings.
Composer of Imperial March 25¢

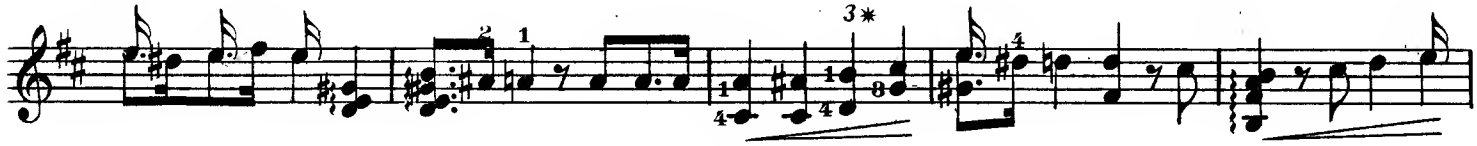
Intro.
Tempo di Schottische.

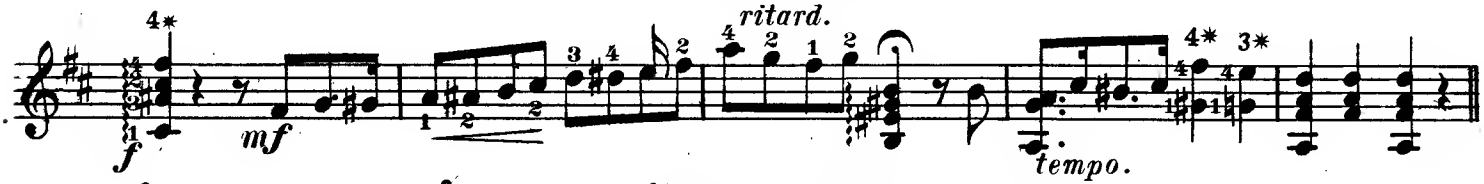


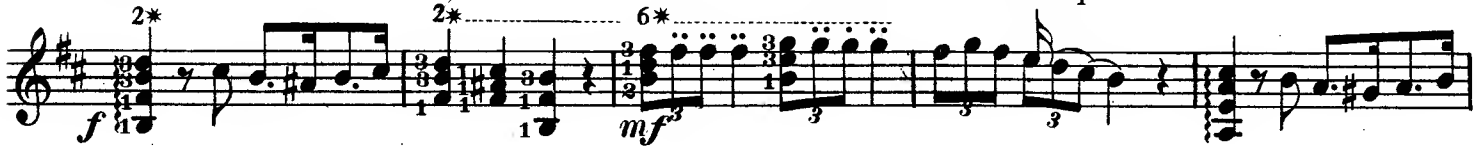


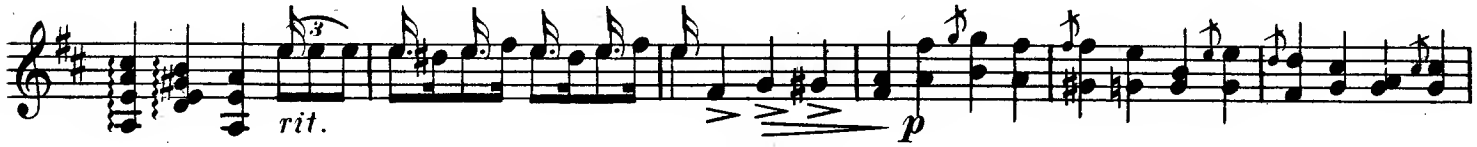
Song.

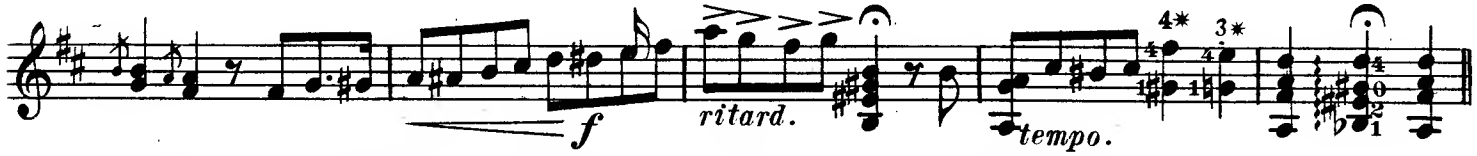




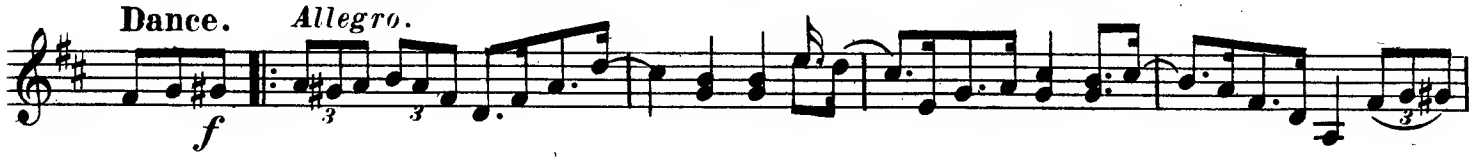


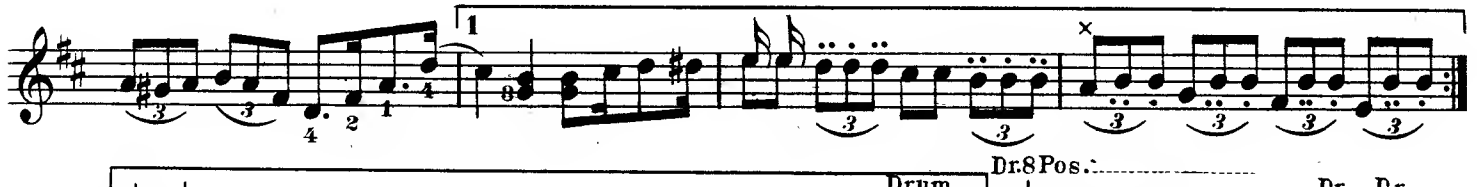






Dance. *Allegro.*





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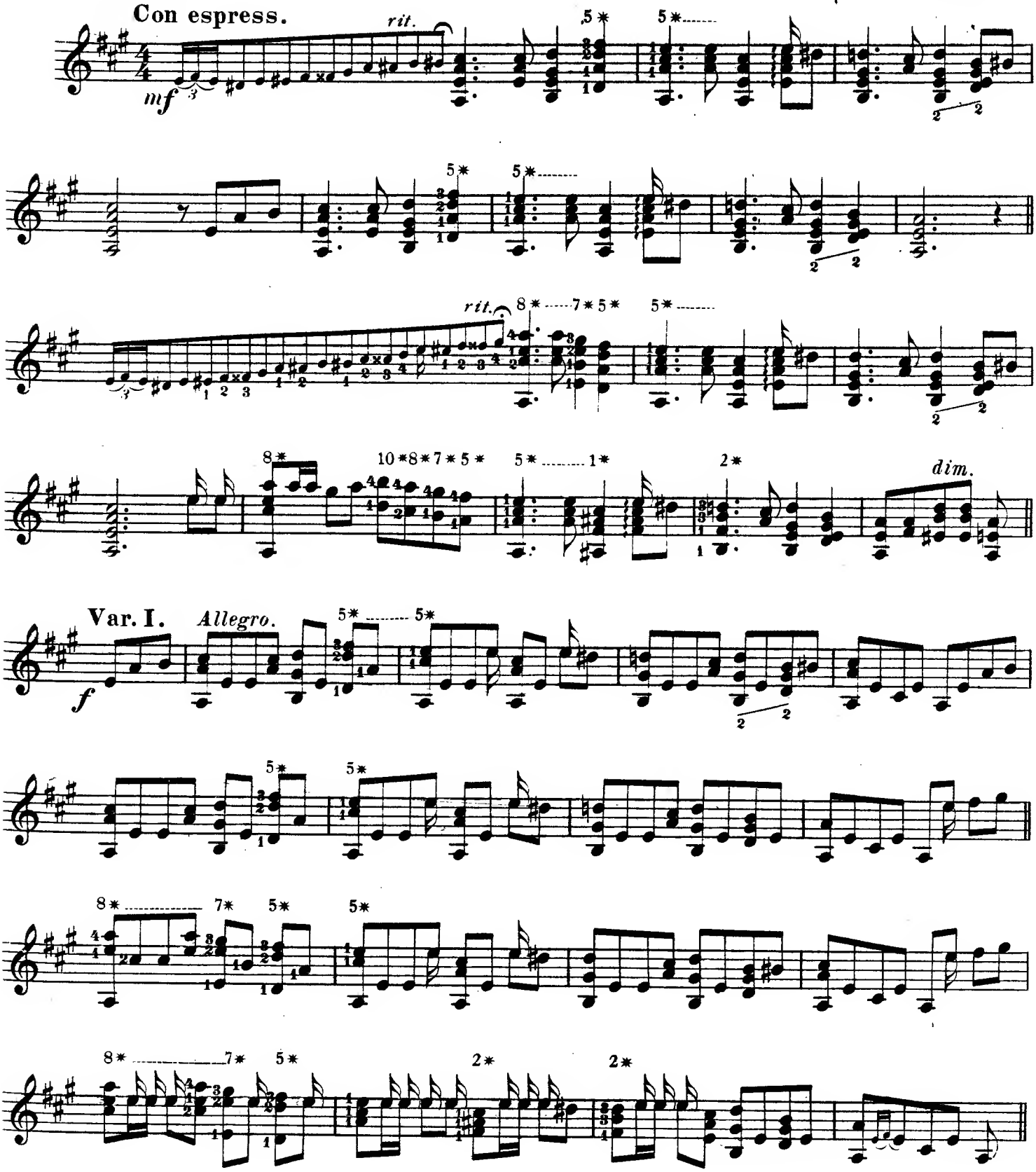
HOME SWEET HOME.

VARIATIONS.

BANJO SOLO.

J. H. Jennings.



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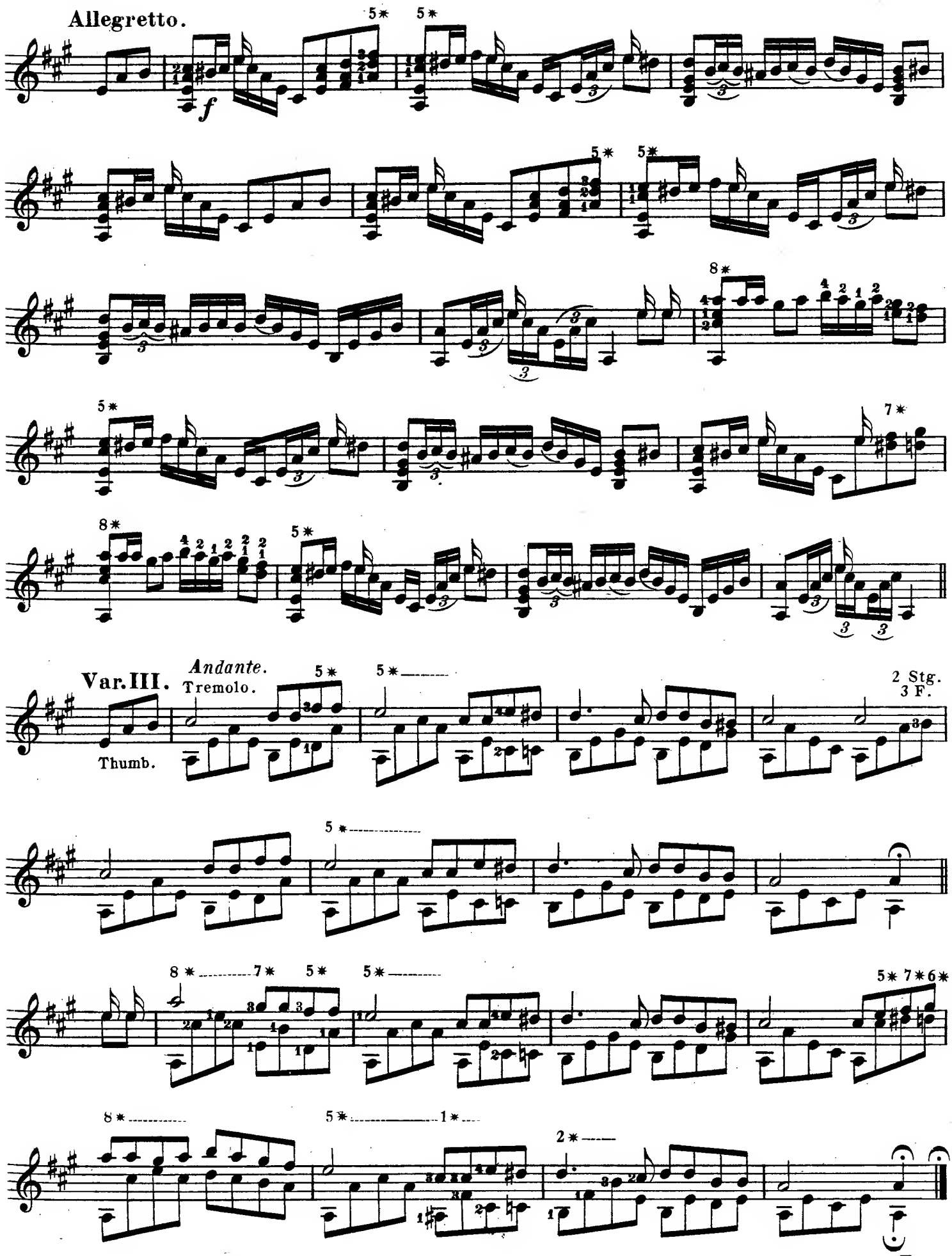
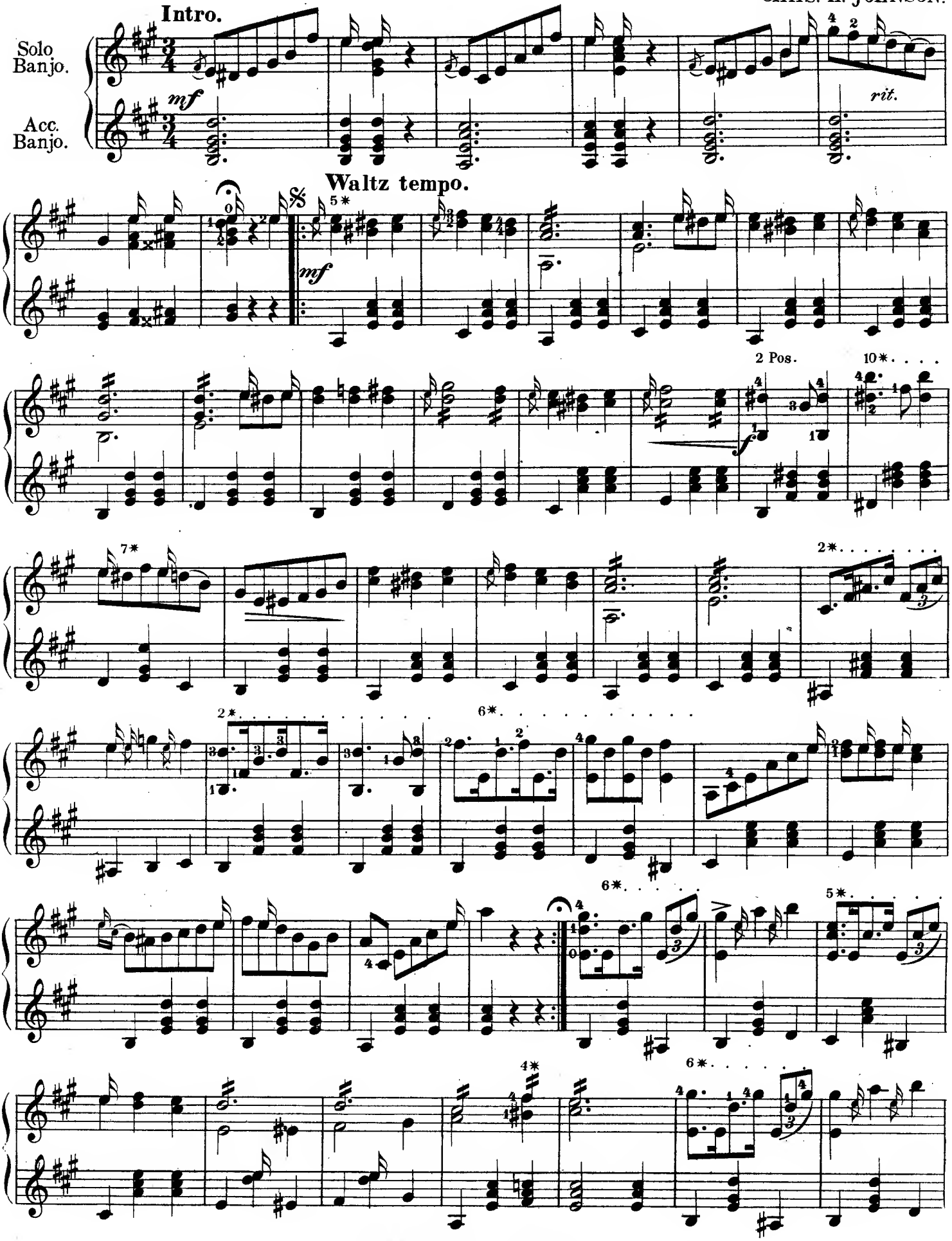

Var. II.
Allegretto.
f
Var. III.
Andante.
Tremolo.
Thumb.
2 Stg.
3 F.
Fine.

AMSTERDAM WALTZ.

CHAS. H. JOHNSON.



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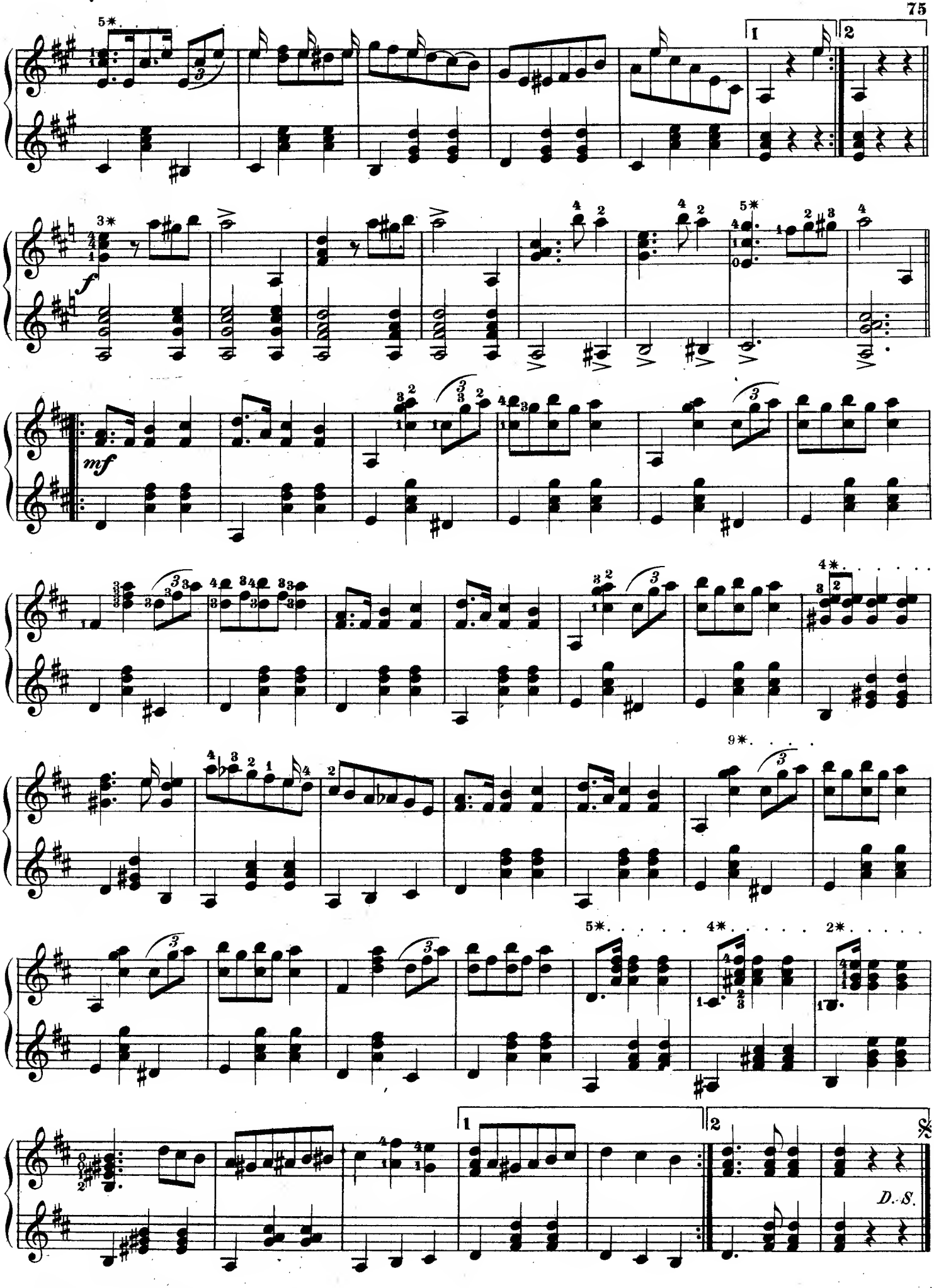
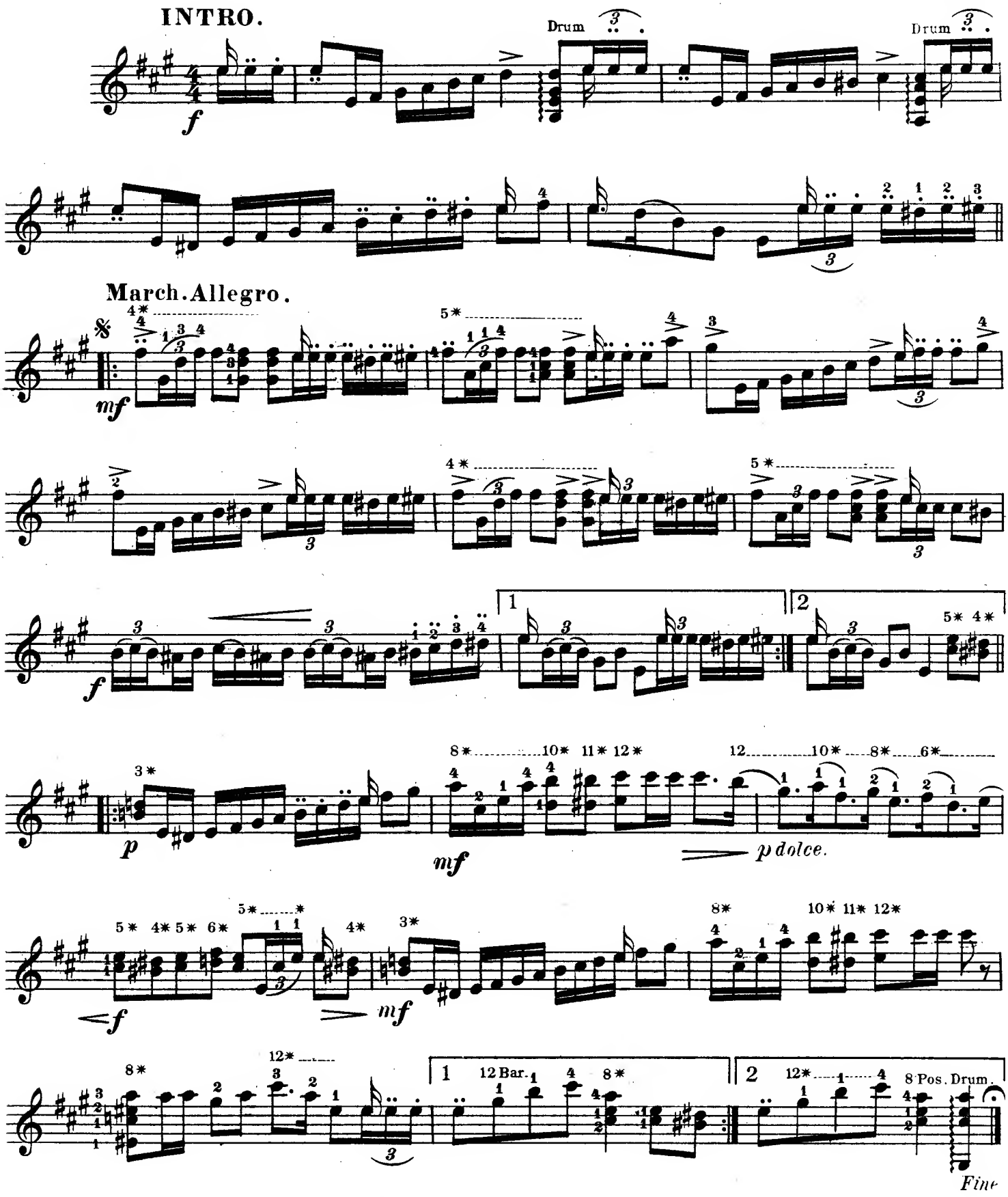

1
2
f
mf
D.S.

To Mr B. G. Wood, New York City.

ROYAL STANDARD MARCH.

BANJO.

J. H. Jennings.



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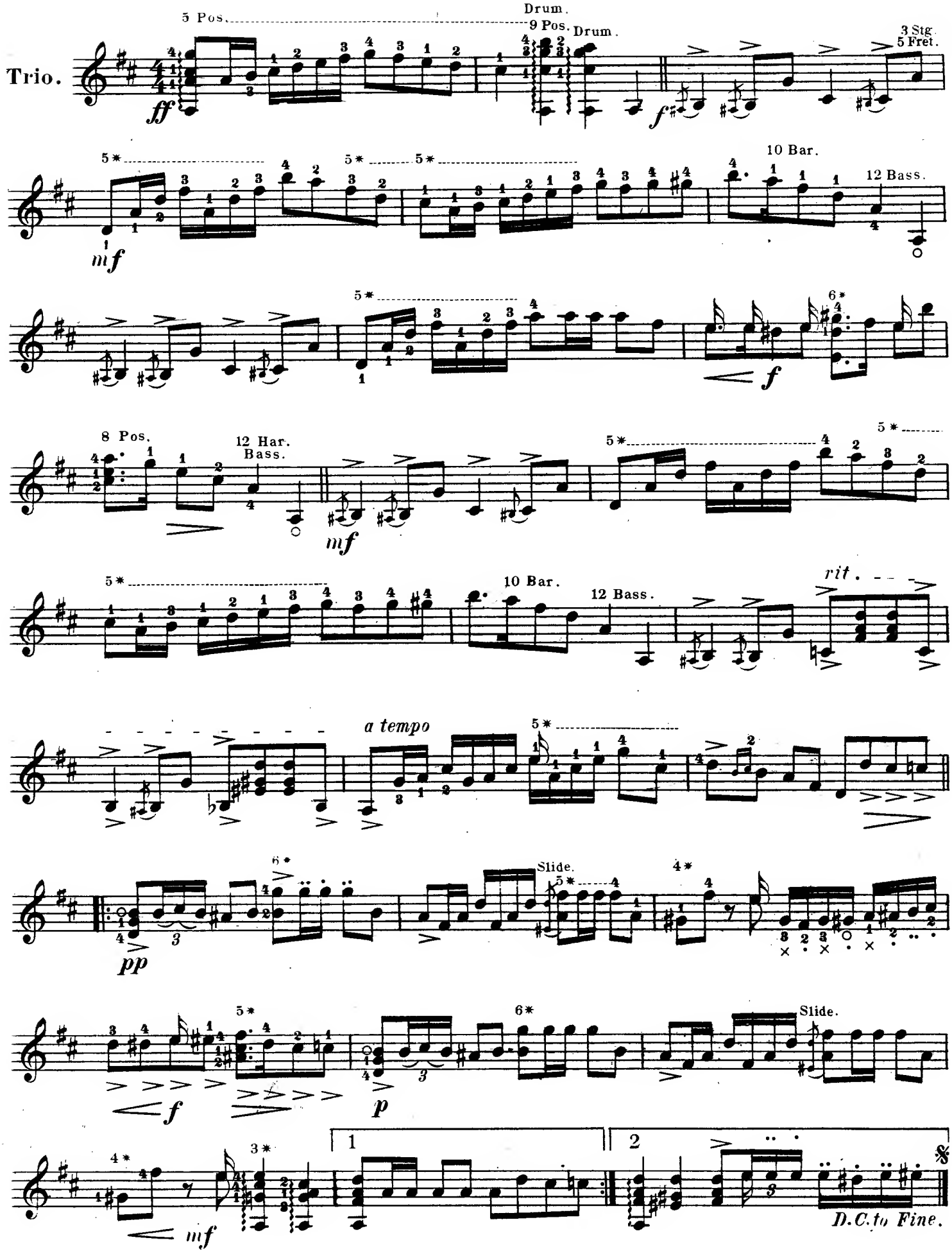

Trio.
5 Pos.
Drum.
9 Pos. Drum.
3 Stg.
5 Fret.
10 Bar.
12 Bass.
8 Pos.
12 Har.
Bass.
rit.
a tempo
Slide.
D.C. to Fine.

MINSTRELS CLOG DANCE.

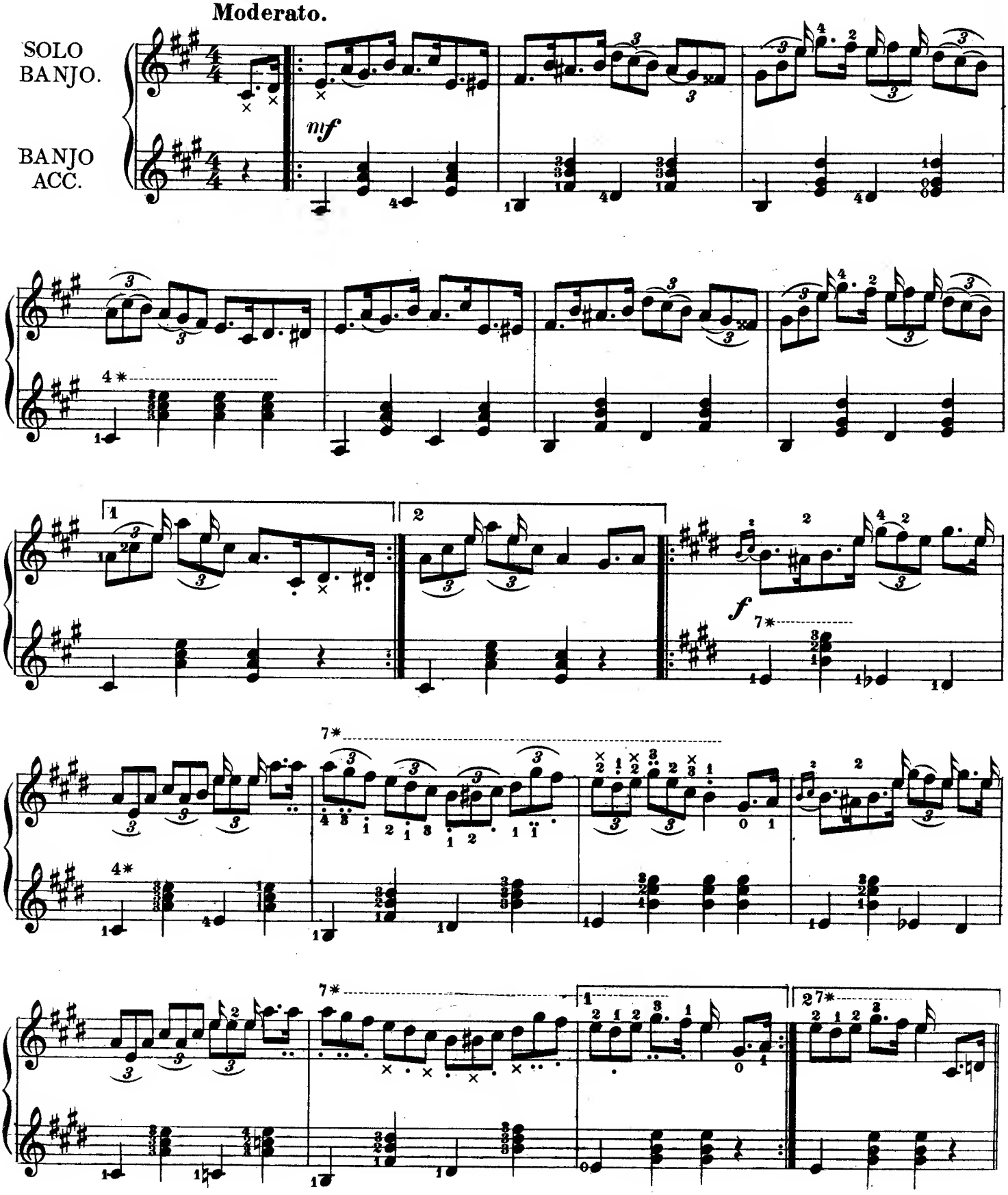
Tune Banjo A to D on Piano.

J. H. JENNINGS.

Moderato.

SOLO BANJO.

BANJO ACC.



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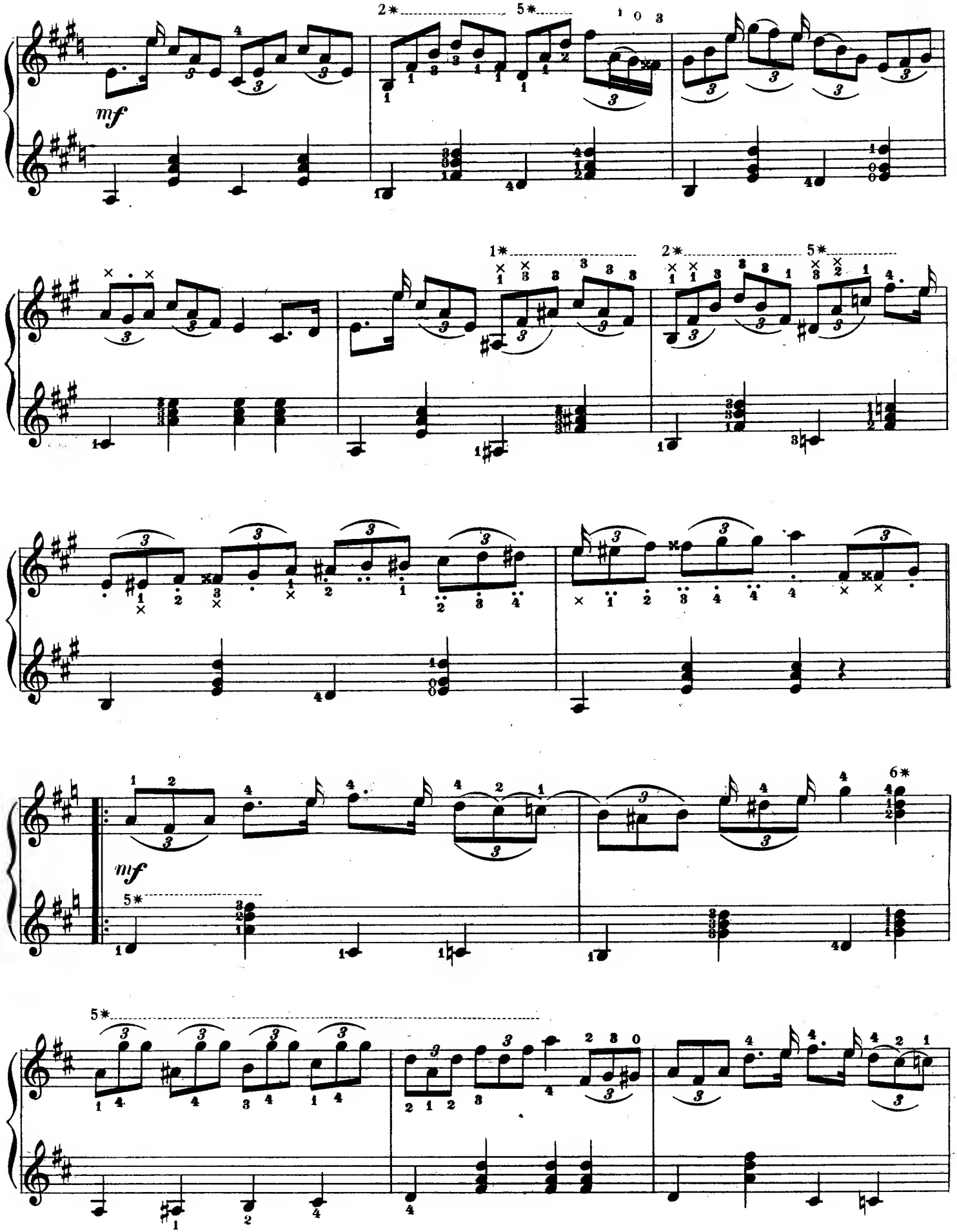
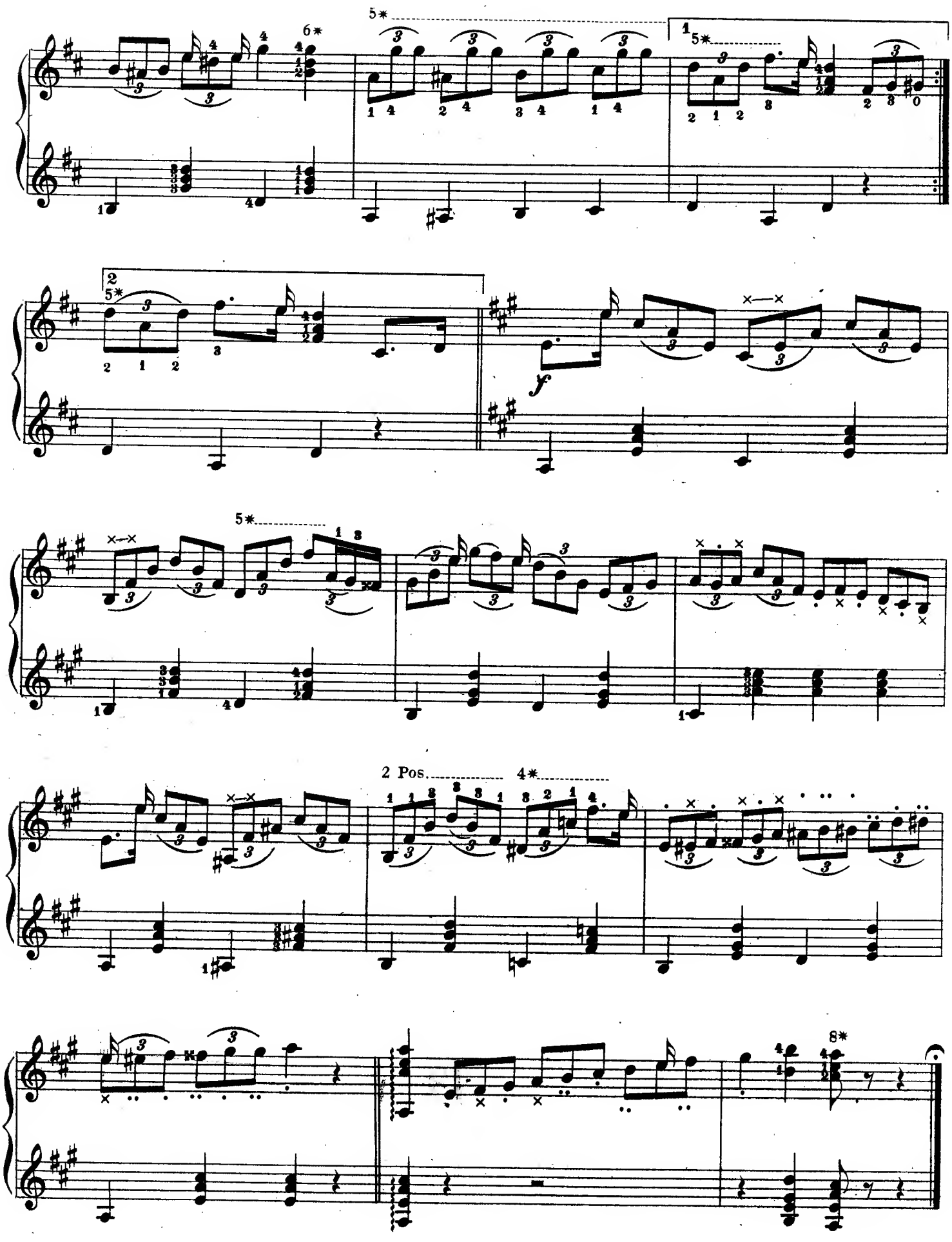

mf
mf


5*
6*
1
5*
2
5*
f
5*
2 Pos.
4*
8*